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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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NAVAL TRAINING, RELATED ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED

Submarine Commander on Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Capt 2d Rank T. Mezhalis, captain of an outstanding missile submarine: "Move Forward With Certainty"]

[Text] We were unable to covertly get through the powerful antisubmarine barrier. The ships in the "enemy" hunter-killer group detected our submarine and began to take up positions for a decisive strike. Usually in these instances one must try to break away from the "enemy." However, apparently the ASW personnel maintained the contact so firmly that we would probably not get away. Then I decided to employ a tactical procedure which I had thought up quite a long time ago. The sudden maneuver left the ASW personnel confused. Putting this to use, we successfully accomplished the assigned mission.

During the exercise critique the senior chief noted our non-standard actions, our tactical ruse. It came to my mind that I had just thought up this skillful maneuver several months ago and was not sure whether my subordinates would be able to implement it.

This is not to say that the submarine crew was poorly trained. No, overall it consisted of pretty good specialists. It was made up of specialists, so to say, of average qualifications. But, these same "average qualifications" also led to average accomplishment of combat training missions. It often is the case during a training battle that the favorable situation arises for an original maneuver which leads to success. But, I was forced to ignore this opportunity since such a maneuver requires that the sailors at one of the posts not simply accomplish, but with certainty exceed the combat norm, while at another post they ensure not simply faultless operation of the equipment, but work in an atmosphere of extreme stress. But, I was uncertain whether they were capable of doing this.

Every innovation in military affairs appears in different forms. Any new tactical procedure is not simply the fruit of a commander's brilliance. It springs to life primarily because an atmosphere of creativity has been created in the crew, the specialists have learned to detect targets at a range greater than usual, more reliably than before, they track them and employ weapons at maximum ranges and with great accuracy.

During the exercise I was describing, my captain's idea occurred because the sonar men headed by master of combat qualification WO [michman] P. Kravchuk was able under very unfavorable hydrology to obtain exhaustive information about the situation. Because the stokers--subordinates of master of combat qualification WO A. Maksimov--worked with the precision of a jeweler. Because the electricians working for WO V. Il'in (by the way, also a master) were able to maintain the submarine at the assigned speed when required. In other words, because at all combat posts one found now not simply "average" specialists, but real masters who grew, multiplied, and took an important step to the heights of combat skill.

And this step--from the average level--in my view is one more difficult to take than even the very first steps in achieving one's specialty.

Work at the so-called "average level," as a rule, does not lead to serious breakdowns in combat training. It does not jump out at you like, let's say, blatant negligence and therefore does not always get the bad evaluation from the captain and from the party organization.

The following comes to mind. Our crew was doing our missile firing. Conditions were complex but they were even made more complicated due to errors committed by the navigator, Sr Lt A. Vorob'yev. In the final analysis the firing was accomplished successfully. And, this gave the officer the opportunity to announce at the critique of the firing, in response to complaints addressed to him, that he had erred supposedly at the limits of his tolerance, as if this was fully justifiable for such errors....

Yes, in life it does happen that a sailor learns to accomplish combat norms and remains at that level of skill. Nothing too much is expected of him. The sailor during practical training receives good evaluations. Should he be criticized for this? But one must be demanding, and doubly demanding. For the norms have been calculated overall based on the average sailor. This in its own way is only the start point for movement forward.

In my view, if one seriously is concerned about raising the quality indicators of combat training, one must very carefully orient people to the maximum, require full response from them. Ignite their desire for the best results. This is the overall task of both the captain and the party organization. How can one overlook Lenin's behest--never be satisfied with what has been achieved, go forward with certainty, with certainty achieve more. Organizing the competition for a proper greeting for the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth, we comprehensively strove to implement this behest as it pertains to our missions.

Here is an example. When the mission is assigned the submariners to support the combat training of ASW ships, the training goals call for operations containing specific limits--maneuver in a strictly-assigned area, with specific courses, at an assigned depth. The advantages for the ASW personnel under such conditions are evident. However, no one and nothing restricts our right to take a justifiable risk, to employ tactical cunningness, to strive for victory. In the final analysis the more difficult the conditions for us, the greater the possibilities for fruitful training.

Once, having been assigned the next mission to support ASW training, I gathered the officers together and shared my point of view with them. Some at the beginning were a bit skeptical: What's the difference, another set piece exercise. But, then the people became interested and began to seek reserves. Engr-3rd Rank M. Stuzhinskiy calculated the optimal speed for the submarine which would not reveal its presence in the region. Sr Lt A. Danilenko determined the special features of the sea's hydrology and the optimum ranges for detecting the ships, calculated the optimum depths and speeds which would ensure covert operations. The navigator really had to go to work on the computations for the ship's maneuver.

After the exercise the captain of the opposing force thanked me for the interesting, as he expressed it, support. Naturally, there is no need to mention that this cruise for us turned out to be more useful than usual.

Getting the maximum out of people and their work is, it could be said, half the battle. And, development of combat competition in the collective does a great deal here. Only there is no need, in my opinion, to reduce everything, as it is sometimes done, only to working out schedules and compiling evaluations. It goes without saying that it is also important and it also can be interesting, especially for young seamen. But, you will agree that warrant officers who have been in the navy a couple of decades like, let's say, WO V. Grigorash and A. Maksimov and officers who have finished higher schools and who have a certain amount of know-how look upon these evaluations in a slightly different way. Apparently one also needs some sort of additional stimuli along with the evaluations. And primarily stimuli of a moral nature, recognition of the creative nature of the mission.

I also note that the higher the goals which people must achieve, the more specificity and proficiency required in the competition. Sometimes the opposite is the case. When an individual takes only the initial heights in combat training, his pledges contain a mass of specific points--either pass a particular proficiency rating or overfulfill the norm by a certain amount. But, when specific levels have been achieved, more and more one finds overall statements in the pledges: "Improve," "Better," and then simply "Affirm"....

But after all, if you go right into it at some high level of skill, possibilities arise for applying a new skill to the competition. And, there is all the specificity that you need here. Last year our officers, warrant officers, and petty officers at the initiative of the communists, actively competed, for example, to master responsibilities at a level higher than that occupied. Capt-Lt S. Dryanin, WO V. Grigorash and A. Peshkov, and others successfully

achieved this. They facilitated a growth in the skills of the seamen, improvement in the crew's combat coordination, improvement in the competition for the best watch officer and in the struggle to master secondary and associated specialties. Today no one among us asks how it was before, why, let's say, a missileer is able to start a water pump or why a mechanic-engineer learns tactics.... It is required! Because combat readiness does not fall within the narrow limits of "from" and "to."

Once, for example, Engr-Capt 3rd Rank M. Stuzhinskiy, commander of the electrical and engineering division, in a very difficult situation thanks to this same ability to analyze a tactical situation maintained the submarine at the trim which was the only possible one leading to quality mission accomplishment. Another time missileer Sr Lt Ye. Rasparkin, standing the night watch on the submarine when the crew was ashore, was able in response to a surprise input organize the battle for ship's survivability in an excellent manner....

These examples speak of one thing--when people are faced with the requirement to creatively approach military labor, to work tomorrow better than today, a certain type of stability reserve is created within a crew.

We are now concerned about utilization of yet-unused reserved and eliminating deficiencies which from time to time come to light. And the step with which we are faced naturally is more difficult than that which has already been taken. However, I am confident of the crew. We can handle the most difficult things when the people see in what has been achieved only the initial point en route to higher proficiency.

Simulators Not Used Effectively

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Capt 2d Rank A. Zlydnev: "The Price for Lack of Supervision"]

Simulators are not being used effectively in the Unit X training center.

The building housing the training center stands at the foot of a hill which rises up along with the docks that stretch off into the depth of the bay. Excellently-equipped classes and offices, many simulators, operating displays, diagrams, and mock-ups--all respond to the requirements of modern methods. The training facility in the main was created and is being improved by the unit's troops themselves. Officers Yu. Khaliullin and A. Kuz'min, WO V. Perchuk and V. Kuranov, Sr Smn I. Lovyagin, and many others have made a great contribution here.

Lessons in the training departments are a viable means for improving the quality of base training for sailors. Solution of many problems which confront crews at sea have their beginning right here, on the shore, at these simulators and displays. Take, let's say, such problems as the battle to conserve fuel and operating hours, ensuring accident-free cruises. Much can be said about

this, but success is not achieved if the troops go to sea without a reliable reserve of the corresponding knowledge and skills.

The training center set up at the unit makes it possible to ensure this reserve. Here, for example, are the offices where specialists from engineering subunits [podrazdeleniya] study. An operating refrigerator unit has been installed in one and in another is an electrified mock-up of a ship in cross section clearly displaying all systems and watertight bulkheads, location of pumping devices, and a third a fine large-scale diagram of power distribution throughout the spaces. Here, using specialized electrified overlays, the sailors are able to develop skills in firing up boilers and starting diesels. Boiler room and damage control mechanics, electricians and engine-room ratings are continually training here, preparing for sea cruises. And, the payoff is visible--the quality of equipment maintenance by the specialists is growing.

The training equipment in many other departments is also being used just as effectively. But, it is a strange thing that in this same unit, in this same building one sometimes also sees a completely different picture.

It is a special training day. Several ships are tied up at the dock. The sailors have a good opportunity to study at the training center and polish their skills on beautiful simulators. But, not a single individual from the ships' radiotechnical services showed up here.

Perhaps the radar operators have solved all the problems involving special training? No, the fact is that there have been some complaints recently about these specialists--several while at sea demonstrated poor skills and were guilty in the manner in which they maintained equipment.... How then do you explain the fact that simulators stand idle and the diagrams and posters gather dust? The fact is that the requisite control over use of the training base is lacking. Staff officer Capt 3rd Rank M. Katsnel'son, responsible for training the specialists in the radiotechnical service, long before his transfer to another unit shifted the concern on this point to the shoulders of WO M. Shafronov. He in turn shifted it to the ships' chiefs of radiotechnical services. And they unfortunately prefer to avoid problems linked with conducting exercises at the training center. Where is it simpler to conduct such training than using a familiar diagram aboard the ship itself.

It is strange but at the unit staff for some reason they look upon this situation calmly. One cannot but react here also to the poor utilization of the navigation department. Staff officer Capt 3rd Rank V. Manskikh lets it run by itself. The conduct of training sessions is done willy-nilly by poorly-trained individuals possessing a confused idea about the capabilities of training equipment. The result is that sailors gather at the department, sit, look at the simulators, then depart.

Yes, the efficiency of the training base is not as good now as it should be. And moreover it can be greatly improved. The main thing is to eliminate spontaneity in its use. One would think that the unit command and the staff party organization must be made to answer for this more strictly. What must

be done is for the personnel on each ship to clearly know when and who ought to be studying what theme at the training center and who is responsible for conducting the lessons or practical training sessions.

The methods training of group leaders has enormous significance. Here at the training center at one time they held several demonstration exercises during which leading methods experts such as officers Yu. Khaliullin and B. Marchenko shared know-how in training the troops using simulators and operating displays. One would think that such exercises should be conducted regularly.

The distance between the ships and the training center is not very far. They are a stone's throw apart. We must see that there are no obstacles along this path created by lack of organization so that not a single simulator stands idle during training time.

On the ASW Cruiser 'Leningrad'

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Engr-Capt 2d Rank V. Nechitaylo, commander of the electrical and engineering division in the ASW cruiser "Leningrad": "What Will the 'Crown' of Smoke Come To?"]

[Text] Engr-Capt Lt L. Gorelov came to my cabin with a complaint. His subordinates--specialists from the stoker group--were given a low evaluation based on the results of a duty day on a long cruise.

"What for?" the officer wondered. "The sailors stood watches vigilantly in the main. They maintained the ship's way reliably."

Yes, in actuality the mechanics worked fairly well. But overall they did not deserve a high evaluation since at times the sailors forgot elementary engineering culture. Thus, for example, the troops on PO 2d Class N. Snegirev's shift when coming on watch did not regulate the fuel and did not clean the boiler burners. This at first glance is a minor insignificant violation of equipment operating modes. But, this is only at first glance. The fact is that the boilers smoked. What will the "crown" of smoke above the ship lead to? Figures speak louder than words. A quick calculation clearly showed that PO 2d Class Snegirev's crew in comparison with, let's say, that of PO 2d A. Savchuk, whose subordinates maintained the equipment in model fashion, expended hundreds of kilograms of mazut more over the period of 1 watch.

Not a lot needs to be said about the importance of saving and preserving fuel. This is a generally-evident truth. But, when a ship departs on a long cruise, it acquires special meaning. It is not a difficult task to fuel a ship at base: the order goes to the corresponding office and, at the exact time, the tanker approaches the cruiser. It is something different far from home shores. A planned rendezvous with a tanker for the most varied objective reasons might not take place. And if at that time the crew suddenly is assigned a new mission? You do not achieve success with empty tanks.

The individual that is most careful is better prepared for combat. It is from this very position that I strived on the long cruise to organize competition for economy and preservation in my own subunit [podrazdeleniye]. This is what I based my own increased demandingness on. This approach brought good fruits. People became more demanding of themselves and they heightened their activeness in a search for fuel reserves. That same officer Gorelev after our conversation significantly strengthened control over how the sailors stood watch. Fuel no longer went up the stack along with "crowns" of smoke. Upon the ship's return to home base the savings indicators of the boiler room group were quite significant.

And the entire crew of our cruiser saved on the long cruise many dozens of tons of fuel. I wish to emphasize the term entire crew. Naturally, missileers, torpedomen, or even sonarmen, yes and all other specialties, don't have much to do with the electrical and engineering division (BCh-5) or directly with the taking on, storage, and utilization of fuel as a rule. But, the struggle to conserve fuel involves everyone.

They look upon this differently on several ships, unfortunately. This, in my view, decreases the range of options for finding reserves for savings. Look at this situation. Search for a submarine is underway. The troops of BCh-5 skillfully maintain the equipment and exhibit concern to make sure that not even one gram of mazut is wasted. At the same time the sonarmen let the team down. They poorly tuned the equipment, they search for the target for a long time and unskillfully, having established contact they rapidly lose it. All this requires the ship to make additional maneuvers and places additional loads on the power plant. Kilograms of fuel fly off on the wind.

The result is the same when as a result of errors by specialists from the rocket and artillery or the mine and torpedo division the ship has to make repeat attack passes. But if they destroy targets at maximum range with the first volley, the first launch, or on the first pass, fuel expenditures are significantly less.

Our ship's command and party organization, actively struggling to solve all combat training problems during the long cruise with high quality, continually accented the sailor's attention also on the fact that this was done where possible with the least expenditures. The economic indicator mandatorily was considered along with other qualitative indicators achieved during a particular exercise. And, it influenced the overall evaluation not only of the troops in BCh-5, but also the specialists of all subunits upon which savings depended to a particular degree. This approach stimulated the search for reserves and facilitated expansion of the movement of those aboard ship who wanted to be economical.

There were occasions in the past, chatting with officers or warrant officers from the radiotechnical service (RTS) about their possible contribution to more rational use of fuel and operating hours, they only shrugged their shoulders: This is your concern, we have enough concerns of our own. Now there has been firm contact established in this important matter between the two subunits. As a rule, prior to each ASW exercise we meet with the

RTS chief, coordinate our interests with him, and refine the sequence for cutting in consumers of electric power. This will permit us to activate the optimal number of generators, thinking through the equipment operating modes so that, on the one hand, the maximum favorable conditions for the sonarmen will be created, and on the other hand, the modes will be the most economical.

We attempted to establish similar coordination during the long cruise also with specialists from other divisions.

I want to especially underscore the role of the ship's captain in the struggle to economize and save. Of course, the captain has many responsibilities and on his shoulders falls the colossal responsibility for the ship's combat readiness. And, on this background, to them it seems like "petty items" to reverse more than necessary or, let's say, extra work for the engines is nothing, as sometimes some captains allow.... But, this is not so in fact.

Capt 2d Rank M. Kulak, captain of the ASW cruiser "Leningrad" profoundly understands this. He is a strict individual with a soft spot for economy, is able to himself evaluate and preserve the national good, and he teaches all officers to take this approach. Prior to the ship departing for Mediterranean Sea, the captain invited me to his cabin and was interested in what speed it would be advisable to maintain for the ship to arrive in the area on time and, at the same time, save the maximum amount of fuel. We did the computations together, we called the navigator in to help. The same was done as we prepared for the return trip. And always, regardless of the complexity of the situation and regardless of the responsible missions we are called upon to accomplish, he did not violate his rule: "It is mandatory to also think about economy." There was not an instance when we changed speed without a reason, when the engines operated with a load that was not called for by necessity. When the situation allowed, Kulak ordered that we maintain way using 1 engine.... One can only state that the captain himself put dozens of tons of fuel in the overall ship's "cash box."

In his speech at the November (1979) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, comrade L. I. Brezhnev underscored that "consistent maintenance of the mode of economy" is required. What does the word consistent mean? It means that we must attract to the movement for economy not only enthusiasts, but the entire crew from captain to seamen. This means that we must maintain the struggle for economy not during campaigns, not case by case, but constantly, every day and every hour. This means that there are no "petty items" where economy is concerned--we must economize in the important matters and in the small matters.

Moscow KOSMAYA ZVEZDA (in Russian) 13 Mar 80 p. 2

[Article by Capt 1st Rank A. Drobot, master of military affairs: "Guarantees of Reliability"]

[Text] The weather rapidly deteriorated. A thunderstorm raged above the sea during the concluding stage of the training battle. It placed the communicators in a most difficult situation since powerful atmospheric interference blocked the operating radio channels. But, Capt-Lt O. Bazhenov, commander of the communications division in the destroyer escort "Sil'nyy" was not daunted. Manipulating the technical capabilities of the equipment, he ensured that the flagship had uninterrupted communications with the shore and with the ships, and guaranteed the reliability and precision of command and control. This greatly facilitated the training battle leading to victory.

Officer Bazhenov's success and that of his subordinates was no accident. For a long time now aboard this ship there have been no substantial write-ups concerning communications discipline and the personnel possess firm skills. In his practical activities the division commander ensures that communications remain the nerve of control and he strives to see that this "nerve" stands up under the most powerful loads. He is able to do this, something unfortunately one cannot always say about his colleague Capt-Lt O. Starostenkov.

On one occasion Starostenkov, due to equipment breakdowns during one sortie, encountered difficulties in accomplishing a training mission. An accident? There is much evidence which says that Capt-Lt O. Starostenkov is undoubtedly a knowledgeable and experienced specialist. But, more careful analysis showed that the officer seemed to place too much store in his own know-how. It did not bother him that preventive maintenance and equipment checkouts were being done in a formal manner, that the specialist rating training sessions and exercises were not always conducted with the communicators according to plan and their maintenance training had not been improved.

To Capt-Lt Starostenkov's credit, it should be said that he has made the correct conclusions from what occurred. Matters at the present time in his division are being corrected. But, you must call a spade a spade--there were "errors." And naturally, comparing the two combat training episodes, one cannot but note the following. In the first instance the communicators ensured command and control under the most unfavorable circumstances. In the second instance, they placed the flagship in a difficult position in a very conventional situation while accomplishing a standard mission.

The unit's staff could not remain passive in the presence of such contrasts. This required analysis, recommendations, practical conclusions.

First the "Sil'nyy" know-how was studied. Here they rationally used communications exercises, as well as practical training using the "ship-communication center" and "ship-training class room." The practical training conditions were gradually made more complex: radio exchanges were made without ECM, with ECM, and with a change to reserve frequencies.

The division commander skillfully guided the competition. Hung at the combat posts here are schedules for norm accomplishment by those competing and, when summing up, Capt-Lt Bazhenov by subject analyzes troop accomplishment of their socialist pledges. Fliers are published about those leading in the competition and they regularly tell their comrades about their approach to the job.

Everything is done the same way in other communications subunits as well. But, comparing how training and competition are set up on them with how it is done on the best ships, one easily notices differences in the level of execution. This relates to the greatest degree to the sphere of competition where reserves are still great. Competition programs is not skillfully analyzed on all ships. Division commanders do not always accurately know who is leading in the competition among signalmen, radiotelegraphers, and telephone operators. Lacking are the data from monitor equipment here which point in seconds and signs to the mastery of each specialist. Where does one obtain these data if the recordkeeping is not done regularly? Not every division commander monitors the time it takes information to go from the radio shack to, let's say, the main command post and systematically analyzes where and in which elements valuable seconds and minutes are being lost. Meanwhile transmission and reception of reports are not a goal in themselves. Communications accomplish their mission when the information is used by the captain to evaluate the situation and make a decision.

Solution of these problems requires not only enthusiasm on the part of communications subunit commanders, but also specific assistance to them on the part of ships' captains. Instances of specialists rating exercises being postponed until "later" have not been eliminated everywhere yet. This is sometimes motivated by the arrival of a commission for which emergency clean-up and painting is done.... And, when the notorious "later" arrives, the next impediments to practice training arise. This will lead to disruption in training rhythm and non-accomplishment of exercise plans, as we have already seen in the example of O. Starostenkov.

Practice shows that ships get the most write-ups on communications during the initial period of intensive cruises and those same ships where base training for communicators is set up in the least meaningful manner. Upon their return from the cruise some captains complain that the ship is receiving lower grades.... "What is wrong?! It's been a long time since this happened!" No, a violation of radio traffic rules is no petty matter. Since antiquity such errors have not been written off. But, some commanders look for this to happen initially and do not make proper conclusions until they find themselves in trouble.

Let's take an ideal situation. Here we have a ship with a communications subunit trained in model fashion. Can one count in a combat situation on the communications being reliable, flexible, and covert at a level meeting all modern requirements?

The answer to this question to an enormous degree depends on the training of those individuals who make the decision about utilizing communications. In a majority of instances these are flag officers, ships' captains, watch officers. Their culture greatly determines communications reliability and command and control efficiency. Sometimes the order is filled with follow-on reports and instructions whose essence could be described much more clearly and shorter using formalized information and abbreviations. A great deal of time is spent on the preparation and transmission of expensive texts and they reduce command and control proficiency.

One would think that the question of improving command and control culture requires complex solution at all levels and by all elements. I would like in this connection to emphasize the special role played by the example of the flagship. If ships put out to sea obliged to accomplish a particular part of the missions under radio silence, then this requirement is disseminated, if there are no special provisions, to all ships, including the flagship. In actuality, some flagships are not ashamed of violating radio silence.... How then can one demand that subordinates adhere very strictly to communications discipline?

These violations relatively often occur through the force of habit of using radio where visual signaling means would be completely feasible: flag and light semaphore and signal flares. The article "Shumnyye 'molchaniye'" ["Noisy 'Silence'"] published on 7 December 1979 in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA discussed in detail the reasons for this negative phenomenon in particular the insufficient development of the missions for the crews during the time at base by some ships' captains. I would like to add one thesis to those elaborated by the author of this article: Underestimation of visual signaling resources often stems from the insufficient skill of signalmen.

It goes without saying that this is correctable. Experience from the Great Patriotic War shows what enormous capabilities for covert command and control are to be found in highly-qualified signalmen, signalmen acen. And, if acen are now encountered rarely on signal bridges, more rarely than we would like to have it, then we must intensify the practice training schedules for signalmen and improve the effectiveness of each trip to the range. It is possible that special sorties dedicated mainly to development of communications missions might also prove to be worthwhile.

On the 'Razitel'nyy'

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Capt 3rd Rank L. Chumak: "ASW Troops Attack"]

[Text] Capt 3rd Rank V. Balashov, captain of "Razitel'nyy," went out onto the conning bridge with binoculars in his hands: the signalmen had reported a NATO aircraft at low altitude. Heavy, a dirty green color, it resembled a large beetle. The pilot's face was very clear through the cockpit. The NATO pilots, attempting to demonstrate force, make similar flights in this

cruise area often. This, however, could not disrupt the rhythm of the combat training aboard the ship. At this point in time, vigilantly monitoring the airspace, sailors at this same time carefully prepared to accomplish the next combat practice session--a search for a submarine. Sr Lt A. Bykov, commander of the mine and torpedo division (BCh-3) and Sr Lt A. Cherkasov, commander of the sonar group, came onto the bridge. They reported to the ship's captain that their subordinates were prepared for intense work and would strive to demonstrate their skill which was improving during the cruise. The officers supported their reports with the corresponding computations made considering the situation: sea state, hydrology, and so on.

This was one more day during the cruise where I observed combat training aboard the ship. One senses that the entire crew lives with concern for reaching the intended high goals in competition for a proper greeting to the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birthday, a concern that each mile underway be employed with maximum effect. From morning until evening, for example, the sailors in BCh-3 set about inspecting and checking out equipment and weapons. Then Sr Lt Bykov conducted practical training of the torpedo men on a complex tactical background with numerous inputs. Later, after theoretical lessons, there was an additional intense simulation with experienced specialists demonstrating progressive work methods at the equipment.

Training is organized with this intensity daily. This all facilitates the young sailor's obtaining the requisite practical skills in a short period of time. On the cruise the captain often conducts tactical skill sessions and seminars which facilitate an improvement in officers' special and technical skill. Sr Lt Cherkasov is successfully mastering the responsibilities for a position higher than the one which he now occupies. Establishment of Sr Lt Bykov as a commander is drawing to a conclusion. The division he heads has been recognized as the best aboard ship and he himself is one of the best watch officers.

Here is the assigned region where "Razitel'nyy" is to duel with a submarine. The sonarmen have already set about searching for the "enemy," but data on the contact still has not reached the primary control station. The captain ponders several variations for attacking the submarine. Everything will depend on the range at which the sonarmen detect the "enemy."

The establishment of Balashov as a commander mainly took place during long cruises. The most fruitful, in his opinion, was that which occurred late last year. At that time the ship was tasked on a number of occasions to go one-on-one with submarines whose commanders had a different "signature," different tactical training. In one duel Balashov was taught a good lesson. That time he treated the "enemy" with contempt, overestimated the capabilities of the shipboard search equipment, and began the attack late. Putting this delay to use, the sub was able to break contact. Much time had to be spent re-establishing contact.

After this incident Balashov began to more carefully achieve during practical training sessions full coordination among the shipboard ASW crew. The ship returned from the cruise with an excellent rating. And, they talked about Balashov in the unit both as a captain able to organize combat training and competition on a cruise, as well as a master of the search and the attack.

Sr Lt Cherkasov sent up a report about a sub contact. Balashov analyzes the situation: Is this the target they are searching for? Specialists from the combat information center express their opinions. There is no doubt that the "enemy" has been detected. The ship's captain queries the torpedo men about their readiness for combat and immediately receives an affirmative report.

"Torpedo attack!"

The maneuver to close with the target and selection of the position for the volley turned out to be correct--the navigator had done his work accurately and rapidly. The attack was a victory for the ASW personnel.

Capt 3rd Rank Balashov again went from the forward post to the bridge to get away from the stress of combat. One after the other officers flush with success came there and the critique of the training battle began with their reports concerning the results of operations at the battle stations.

Effective Staff Work Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Capt 1st Rank B. Prihod'ko: "Staff Aggressiveness"]

[Text] Ships accomplish difficult combat training missions far from home base. The ocean strictly impartially tests the skill of the sailors and their ability to proficiently and decisively operate in a rapidly-changing situation. It is primarily on these same long cruises that know-how is accumulated in organization of training and competition, especially along such trends as ensuring cruise safety, effective utilization of each mile travelled, and development of new tactical procedures. Sailors introduce rationalization proposals directed towards improving equipment reliability and they seek ways to save energy.

And, the more rapidly this know-how and everything new and progressive given birth to on a long cruise becomes the property of other crews, the more effectively it will work to improve ships' combat readiness. In his speech at the November (1979) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, comrade L. I. Brezhnev named support and dissemination of leading know-how and of progressive work forms and methods as among the main trends in organizational, mass political, and ideological work.

Solution of the problem of how rapidly and completely leading know-how obtained from long cruises is generalized, supported, and disseminated depends greatly upon staff aggressiveness and proficiency.

The ship in Unit X where Capt 3rd Rank V. Rodinov is a political worker achieves stable results year after year. The crew fully accomplished the pledges from the past training year and excelled during a difficult long cruise. Today approximately 90 percent of the sailor's here are masters of military affairs and 1st- and 2d-class specialists.

Staff officers V. Sadovyy, V. Zimin, N. Denisyuk, and others along with officers from the political department analyzed in detail the work style of the leading ship's captain, party, and Komsomol organizations.

Analysis showed that each mile traveled is used here with maximum return primarily because there exists aboard this ship a carefully thought-out truly integrated approach to organizing training and competition on long cruises. Officers and warrant officers when training and indoctrinating subordinates strictly consider the level of their training, capabilities, and other individual qualities. Exercises and practical training are conducted on a complex tactical background. Each innovation in combat work is introduced at other posts and each mistake is examined in detail.

Personal pledges which the sailors make for a sortie or for a competition stage are comprehensively founded and aimed at improving the quality of military labor and combat proficiency. Progress in pledge fulfillment is continually monitored and summing up training and competition is done in a demanding atmosphere. Technical circles work aboard the ship and competitions for the rank of best specialists are conducted regularly. Experienced sailors demonstrate on the equipment the most effective ways of maintaining systems and complexes for young sailors.

From a staff initiative came a business-like discussion on the know-how of the leading crew at a special seminar attended by ships' captains. Staff officers, having generalized the know-how, gave speeches based upon specific examples from the practice of those setting the pace and gave recommendations to improve the organization of training and competition on long cruises under conditions simulating combat to the maximum. All captains were urged to more aggressively use, based on the experience of the progressives, the capabilities of socialist competition to form among the sailors high moral and combat qualities. The staff officers subsequently monitored how leading know-how is introduced aboard other ships.

Naturally, this integrated work by the group of staff and political department officers to generalize and introduce leading know-how has a significant effect. But, as is known, there is not always an opportunity to send a staff officer group to a ship. More often each ship is called upon to operate on a long cruise or after returning to base according to an individual plan. Staff officers with initiative are not restricted in such cases by narrow departmental interests of their own specific specialty, let's say, navigation or electrical engineering. Teaching shipboard officers the ability to correctly,

with the greatest efficiency, use the equipment and to conduct lessons and training sessions with methodological skill, they enter into the competition aboard ship and diligently identify everything new and useful that is not found in other crews and then, in a business-like manner, implement it.

Thus, in the excellent engineering division (BCh-5) commanded by Engr-Capt 3rd Rank V. Baranov, 12 specialists became masters of military affairs. The progressive engineer-mechanic interested himself in how such high indicators could be achieved in a relatively small collective. It turned out that in BCh-5 a long-range plan had been compiled for work with those sailors who had received a 1st-class rating and have the right to become masters. Supplemental lessons and practice sessions under complex conditions and reduced norms are conducted with the master candidates. They are trained aboard ship for the main exam by stages. The best specialists actively assist those who have made a pledge to become masters and they consult with them. A competition for profound study of the equipment has been organized among the master candidates.

Know-how in training masters in the excellent BCh-5 on the initiative of the progressive engineer-mechanic was brought to the attention not only to engineering division commanders, but also to the commanders of the other shipboard subunits. The officers put them to use and the result is that the number of masters of military affairs aboard ships has now noticeably increased.

Practice shows that there is no limit to the search for forms and methods of mobilizing personnel to improve the quality of combat training on ocean cruises, especially in the sphere of socialist competition. This also confirms the know-how of the best captains and party organizations who approach the struggle for competition viability creatively. It is a shame if this know-how remains in the shadows. This means that staff officers who were unable to properly evaluate creativity and initiative of captains and communists in one of the vital trends did not do their work here. And, on the other hand, approaches noted and implemented in a timely manner very rapidly begin to produce fruit.

The staff and political department in the unit we are discussing was interested in the carefully organized competition among the combat shifts on one ship. (It was greatly facilitated by the fact that the crew received an excellent evaluation for an ocean sortie). Competition was stimulated by establishment of a travelling pennant named for renowned submariner Hero of the Soviet Union Vice-Adm (Ret) G. Shchedrin. The idea for establishing the pennant came from the ship's communists and was supported by the captain.

Before departing the crew sent Grigoriy Ivanovich Shchedrin a letter which formed the basis for a correspondence. Excerpts from the famous submariner's letters were read over the loudspeaker during the cruise and the possessors of the pennant--as was agreed upon--sent the veteran a special letter about their successes in training and service. Based upon cruise results first place went to the combat shift led by watch officer

Sr Lt Yu. Lavrinov. The political department and staff, having studied know-how and organizing competition between combat shifts on this ship, looked into its introduction into other crews.

Recognizing something new and progressive, generalizing it, seeing that the know-how becomes the property of a broad circle of sailors will be easier for the staff officer who himself has behind him the good school of ocean cruises, who knows equipment and weapons to perfection and the special features of their employment, and one who is distinguished for high demandingness and impatience with deficiencies. But regardless of how high the personal qualities of officers, their work aboard ship must be carefully planned and initiative supported and approved. Careful planning facilitates the elimination of boredom.

Participation of officers in competition facilitates improving staff aggressiveness and proficiency in generalization and dissemination of leading know-how. Introduced here are so-called control rosters, which indicate accomplishment of individual socialist pledges by staff officers. It clearly depicts the goals towards which the officer strives, what he has achieved, what is left to be done, what his contributions are towards dissemination of progressive forms and methods of military labor, and his participation in political and ideological work aboard ships. These checklists make it possible to determine which staff officers are going forward and which individuals must be assisted and in what area.

Unfortunately, however, some officers lack aggressiveness and proficiency in analyzing and introducing leading know-how and the ability to fully use the mobilizational and indoctrinational role of competition in the interest of improving combat skill and military discipline in subunits. Officer V. Cheskidov, for example, deserves such criticism. Apparently it is no accident that specialists whose training was the responsibility of this officer last year were unable to move forward in skill development and some even gave up positions previously won.

Winter combat training grows more incandescent. And the extent to which ships' crews successfully accomplish the winter training period missions greatly depends on the aggressiveness and proficiency of the staff, on its painstaking, daily, goal-oriented work to bring to light, generalize, and implement everything new and progressive that is given birth to on long cruises.

Vice-Adm Zub: Background Described

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Capt 3rd Rank S. Bystrov: "Decision"]

[Text] This was not the first time that Vice-Adm Vitaliy Ivanovich Zub spent his days and nights on the bridge. Commanding a detachment of ships during exercises, he soon fell into the mode of round-the-clock intense

work and continually kept himself ready for unexpected changes in the situation. These changes are unavoidable. Moreover, combat is built upon them--first in the imagination of the commander, then in reality. However, the intensity of the problem was that, although he was a very skillful captain, there could always be a turn of events which he did not suspect. And a captain must do the things that even the most capable computers still cannot be taught to do: on the basis of incomplete, sometimes even contradictory, data, banking upon computations and instructions, experience and guesses, make a specific decision, make and subordinate to it activities of all resources, knowing that in the correctness of the decision lies one's authority and success, in the erroneous nature of the decision, regardless of reliability, lies incompetency.

The sea this time did in not Zub, but those who still avoided encountering his detachment. The large ASW ship sent forward detected the "enemy." However, the fierce stormy waves, low overcast, strips of fog, and finally the radar countermeasures greatly complicated mission accomplishment, the finale of which was to be a missile strike against the main target.

Vitaliy Ivanovich Zub watched the navigator plotting the targets. Although order was poorly depicted, it was not difficult to guess what had happened--dozens of miles away, where the "enemy," having called to its assistance all equipment capabilities, all of nature's kindness, tried to slip away from the pursuit by the still minor forces.

The detachment commander sensed the expectant glance of missileer Capt 1st Rank Yu. Gladkikh and understood what he wanted: To rapidly get the "okay" to fire. Overall it was possible to take the risk. But, the vice admiral desired more specific data on the location of the main target.

Suddenly the next report from the large ASW ship surprised everyone. The "enemy" order of battle had split. Contact with several targets was lost and it was impossible to determine the main target.

Another strip of fog rolled by. The ship's bell gave out the alarm in the dense quilted lightness. Vice-Adm VI aliy Ivanovich Zub sensed the seconds slipping by unhindered, sensed the vessel of time literally shrinking.

Decisions were easier in past years. Nothing seemed impossible to Zub when he was young. This was a time when, as they say, eyes are full of decisiveness and the only thing lacking is experience. The mark of that time was a fervent inner belief in oneself, a thirst for difficult situations, the desire to test oneself fully.

At age 23 Vitaliy Zub already was a ship's captain. It was a small, albeit independent, combat entity. Even then he was recommended as a captain selflessly dedicated to the service, decisive, not afraid to take a risk. Later on, it's true, his effectiveness report said it rather sharply: "Inclined towards recklessness."

...Two large subchasers commanded by Sr Lt Zub departed together from their bases. The captain of the second ship requested that he be allowed to visit with his family at a neighboring garrison. Then unexpectedly came an order for both ships to go out on a raid. So, both subchasers went out on the raid. Even though there were no officers aboard the latter who were officially permitted to command a ship. One subchaser went in tow with the other. Sr Lt Zub completed the maneuver faultlessly and was completely satisfied with his actions but, in spite of expectations, he had a very unpleasant chat with the commander of the division of ships.

Vice-Adm Zub now would not approve such actions either. He is now a very experienced sailor who has sailed in different jobs more than 200,000 miles and not once due to the force of circumstances has he been forced to take a risk and, all the same, critically evaluates past actions as a youth. The years taught him to value in all decisions not only effectiveness but certainly advisability and foresight equally as much. Overall one cannot be a real captain without this.

These two forces--personal inspiration and circumspection and the sagacity of seniors also primarily form a captain. In the final analysis a captain's decision is also structured so as not to disrupt the proportions of bravery and carefulness, intuition and calculation.

Vitaliy Ivanovich now recalled the expectant glance of missileer Capt 1st Rank Gladkikh. Apparently the latter had been extremely surprised by the admiral's doubts. If they had struck sooner, even though there was some risk involved, then they might have avoided the situation that had just occurred with the "bifurcation" of the order.

This was not the first time that Vice-Adm Zub had read doubt in the eyes of his juniors: "When it seemed to them that everything was clear and simple, he suddenly demanded refinements and additional substantiation." Naturally, the officers agreed but, based on the shallow replies and the elusive exterior details, he guessed what was going through their minds: "You are being over cautious, comrade vice admiral, and this is uncharacteristic of you based on what we have heard."

Again back to the earlier times. After all every job requires its own norm of responsibility. Zub was executive officer aboard a destroyer and, often standing in for the captain, fulfilled his responsibilities with complete confidence.

The joy of controlling a ship which the wind, waves, and current are also trying to control, and to have it respond defiantly completely only to you--this is also the joy of self-affirmation. In one's eyes, in the eyes of subordinates and of comrades. This is entrancing and you are prepared to take on any responsibility. But, are you capable of any responsibility?

He once was bringing a destroyer back to base. Everything was as usual, familiar, well studied: he asked for more rpm and it was a little bit too much. As is always the case, the formation commander noticed this from the flagship.

This called for an explanation in the admiral's cabin, in the presence of the chief of the political department, no less.

"You were underway with high rpm?" The rear admiral sternly gazed from his thick eyebrows on the executive officer.

"Yes sir, comrade admiral," Capt 3d Rank Zub answered honestly.

"Why was this necessary?" the rear admiral asked but, in a manner indicating that he would like to hear a substantiated answer.

"I wished to avoid a snow shower," Zub snapped sharply and none the less noted the lack of conviction in what he had said.

"What shower, Zub?" the admiral cocked his eyebrows. "This is recklessness. Learn to avoid that."

The formation commander sat at his desk and turned his glance to the chief of the political department.

"What a shame, Zub. We thought that you were a serious executive officer and wanted to appoint you as captain. But now we have our doubts...."

"Have no doubts, comrade admiral!" the officer suddenly blurted out.

"Well, Zubi!" the rear admiral wished to say something else but restrained himself, looked at the chief of the political department, and waved his hand. "Go!"

Several days later came the order appointing Capt 3d Rank Zub as ship's captain. He was unhappy, even sad, about the last conversation with the admiral. The young captain made for him a firm conclusion: He would operate the ship well, and not be so confident in himself always.

How many other situations were there in his long service as a captain when the success or failure of many people, their security, even their lives depended on self control and self possession? And he found himself equal to the tasks....

"Let me hear your proposals," Vice-Adm Zub said, glancing at the officers of the underway staff. He remained calm and the speech seemed as if it were a secondary matter, but he himself waited: Would they say what he wanted them to say, what was already the foundation being laid as a variation of the decision?

There was a pause. Zub understood that each officer, prior to stating his thoughts out loud, tried to reconcile himself to the scale of his, the detachment commander's, activities.

It seemed that the officers' proposals contained advisability, consistency, and logic. But, having made a new maneuver, the "enemy" had already disrupted the sequence of events. The vice admiral listened to the officers and barely interrupted them. His face began to become more stern and harder. Suddenly he lifted his head and without any hesitation concluded:

"We have no more time to mull this over. We will seek the departing group here," and he drew a circle with a pencil around a small area of the enormous sea. "The ASW aircraft will cope with this best of all."

...Each officer is well familiar with the lines from the shipboard regulations which state that the ship's captain must operate without the fear of responsibility for a risky maneuver dictated by the situation. But, few wish to fully test what this may cost.

They returned from the long cruise. They encountered a heavy storm in the Bay of Biscay. Turn back or try to make it across the treacherous Biscay? Capt 2d Rank Zub considered it necessary to continue the cruise. He laid out his decision in a message and sent it for confirmation to his senior chief. There was no answer immediately forthcoming. Confident that his decision would be confirmed, he went across the bay. He was very surprised by the late answer with instructions to return to the starting point. Now this meant once more going through the stormy Bay of Biscay. Therefore, he reported that the bay had been crossed and was considered inadvisable to return, to continue on the present course, the situation is perfectly clear, request confirmation of the correctness of the decision.

Capt 2d Rank Zub's actions led to his appointment to a new position, previously confirmed, being temporarily delayed.

Yes, at that time he was prepared to bemoan the decision made in the stormy ocean. But facing him was a raging sea, clouds falling into it, a ship being lost between the waves. No, whatever is said he could not have done anything else....

...A large ASW ship reported that it did not observe the main target in the group being pursued. At that time Vice-Adm Zub had already brought his detachment to the area earlier marked by him on the map. The support aircraft, leaving the screens at the radar stations, took a course to the same place. If the departing portion of the "enemy" forces actually turned up in the area of their new search, then this means that the main target is there.

Capt 1st Rank U. Gladkikh, having received instructions to prepare to inflict a missile strike, noticeably excited, all the same was unable to hide his doubts: There was absolutely no confirmation of the correctness of their

actions yet. These doubts also involuntarily crept into Vitaliy Ivanovich's thoughts--how can this be avoided even by the most decisive individual. Zub knew that he would only be content when he received the confirming report. Such a report was received from the pilots.

...At the exercise critique, reporting the actions of the detachment of ships, Vice-Adm Zub did not dwell in detail on his decision at the peak moment of that battle. It was practically speaking impossible to catch this on the diagram depicting the maneuvers. The detachment's course changed in natural dependency on the displacements of the main target. One was left with the impression that the detachment commander had tracked it the entire time without a break.

In essence, that was the way it happened.

'Tambovskiy komsomolets'

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Sr Lt S. Cheypesh, Twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "The 'Tambovskiy komsomolets' Fires"]

[Text] Not far from the dock where modern ships are berthed at eternal anchor stands a patrol boat from the patrol boat detachment commanded by the renowned front-line soldier Hero of the Soviet Union Gds Capt-Lt B. Ushchev. Nearby is a tall mast. After they wrap up each socialist competition they raise a flag in honor of the victors.

From the very beginning of the training year leadership in the formation was held by the crew of the missile patrol boat "Tambovskiy komsomolets." The sailors accomplish all combat training missions with high quality.

Now comes the next sortie. The patrol boat personnel are to conduct artillery fire.

Surprises occur even during the approach to the range. "Enemy" aviation struck the patrol boat. In accordance with the input, the captain and several other sailors were put out of action. Lt V. Lidinchuk, the executive officer, had to take command. The crews completed preparations for the firing in a reduced complement....

This is training. But, how can one forget during this time about the experience of the front-line heroes? After all, the subordinates of the aforementioned Gds Capt-Lt B. Ushchev during the war often excelled in an exceptionally complex situation. Friendly coordinated work at all combat stations, full effort on the part of each Red Navy sailor, the ability at any moment to replace a comrade put out of action brought them victory.

Competing in the year of the 35th anniversary of the Great Victory, the sailors on the patrol boats steadfastly learned courage and proficiency from the war heroes. A battle is actively pursued within the crew to master related specialties. Now each third sailor is mastering such a related specialty and, at many battle stations, the sailors have developed complete interoperability.

Preparing to conduct the artillery firing, ship's captain Capt-Lt B. Sivoplyas and the other officers and warrant officers devoted special attention to development of close coordination between the crews and the battle by the sailors to exceed the norms.

Thus, for example, during practical training with one crew Sivoplyas noted that combat coordination between radar operators and gunners was insufficient. As soon as the situation deteriorated, confusion appeared in the reports and the operating rhythm among many of the troops broke down.

At the captain's advice his executive officer Lt V. Lidinchuk, as well as first-class specialists PO 1st Class V. Chebulayev and PO 2d Class B. Pozdeyev timed each operation. Having determined the cause of the errors, during the next intense practical training sessions they assisted young sailors V. Lodkin, V. Sokolov, and others to correct them and to master proficient operating procedures.

The same diligent care was also taken with other elements of the crew. And, all of this worked out well.

...Lidinchuk's voice grows stronger from command to command. The sailors work with reduced crews, but they work rapidly and confidently. The radar operators detected the small target at maximum range. Lidinchuk rapidly analyzed the situation, confirmed the elements of target motion, and determined the moment when to open fire.

The ship was on a combat course. The target entered the firing zone. The gunners accurately destroyed it. Then the sailors masterfully broke off from the "enemy." The training battle lasted seconds, but it demanded from the sailors great skill and full exertion of physical and moral forces. The patrol boat crews received a deserved excellent rating.

The sailors returned to home port in a good mood. Far from port they saw the flag hoisted on the mast in honor of their victory. In honor of those who steadfastly multiply the glorious traditions of the war heroes through successes in military labor.

Cruiser 'Admiral Ushakov'

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 80 p 2

[Article: "The Price of Leniency"]

[Text] This was the title of correspondence from Capt 2d Rank L. Buchinskiy and Capt-Lt S. Malikhov published in the newspaper on 3 January of this year. It brought to light deficiencies in the operating style of the party committee aboard the cruiser "Admiral Ushakov" in organizing socialist competition and ensuring that communists set an example in combat training and service.

As Capt 1st Rank A. Tsikalo reported to the editorial board, the correspondence was discussed at a meeting of the supervisory command and political staff in the formation of ships, as well as at an expanded meeting of the cruiser party committee.

Commander of BCH-2 Capt 3rd Rank A. Ryabchenko has been removed from his post for serious omissions in the training and indoctrination of personnel.

The weak organizational and political-indoctrinational work to mobilize communists to improve the quality of tactical, firing, and special training has been pointed out to party committee secretary Capt 3rd Rank I. Mel'nik and specific measures designed to strengthen party influence on solution of these problems have been noted.

Aviation Support: Criticism Follow-Up

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 80 p 2

[Article: "There Can Be No Complaints"]

[Text] Correspondence from Lt Col V. Kaz'min was published with this headline on 6 February. It described the heart of the conflict which arose amongst the leadership of the Northern Fleet aviation repair enterprise and presented facts which gave witness to a reduction in the level of indoctrinational work within the party collective.

As member of the Military Council, chief of the fleet aviation political department Maj Gen Avn M. Mamay reported to the editorial board, the correspondence was discussed by political department workers as well as at a meeting of commanders, political workers, and party activists within the garrison's units. Measures have been taken to fundamentally improve indoctrinational work in the party organization and to create in it an atmosphere of intolerance to any deviation from the norms of party life and regulation interrelationships.

Enterprise chief Engr-Lt Col V. Chernyak has been replaced due to serious omissions in supervision of the military collective and a reduction in the quality of aviation equipment repair. Deputy enterprise chief for political affairs Maj A. Kozodayev has been called to party account.

By order of the fleet aviation chief engineer a more diligent system of monitoring the quality in preparing repaired aviation equipment for flight testing has been implemented, changes have been made in engineering instructions, and supervisory responsibilities have been refined.

Political Work in the Northern Fleet

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 80 p 2

[Article: "The Worthy--For the Party"]

[Text] A report by chief of the Northern Fleet Organizational Party Work Department Capt 1st Rank P. Khorin "On The Work of Fleet Political Organs and Party Organizations To Bring Into The Party and Indoctrinate CPSU Candidate Members" was heard and discussed in the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

During discussion of the report it was noted that fleet political organs and party organizations, fulfilling 25th CPSU Congress directives and CPSU Central Committee decrees concerning the party organizations of Kirgizia, are intensifying their influence on the quality of selection of servicemen for the party ranks and indoctrination of young communists. Political organs are concentrating attention on the ideological and organizational strengthening of primary party organizations and increasing the level of their practical activities in military collectives. In the fleet the party layer has grown among leading categories of servicemen, the network of party organizations has developed, and their structure has been improved. This work has been subordinated to accomplishment of specific missions involving combat readiness, improving the effectiveness of ideological work, and strengthening military discipline and is exerting a noticeable influence on their solution.

In addition, as was pointed out during discussion of the report, not all political organizations and party organizations with the requisite specificity and steadfastness are fulfilling 25th CPSU Congress instructions concerning regulatory actions involving entrance into the party. In several of them the system of analyzing practice in this field has been insufficiently thought through and there is not always careful representation of the ways of effecting the growth of the party ranks, at times the arsenal of work forms and methods with CPSU candidate members is very narrow. When evaluating work concerning entry into the party attention is often incorrectly centered on comparison of quantitative indicators. A number of political organs and party organizations are not adhering to the demands of the CPSU regulations concerning careful examination of the political, official, and moral qualities of those who wish to join the CPSU and they forget about the importance of such things as bringing people in at open party meetings. They note cases where matters concerning party entry are examined at meetings on the day invitations are given out or the meeting itself begins in an urgent manner on the eve of the party commission meeting. This approach brings with it a reduction in demandingness when joining the CPSU.

Political organs, it was noted during the discussion, do not always give a principled evaluation to similar facts and do not inquire into the specific members of the political group and party aktiv who permit formalism and laxity in this matter. Measures are also still not being taken everywhere

to improve the responsibility by communists for the objectivity of party recommendations. All this leads to the CPSU ranks sometimes being augmented by people with low moral-political qualities and those who are unworthy of the high rank of communist.

Emphasized once again at the meeting was the necessity to strictly carry out 25th CPSU Congress directives and Central Committee requirements concerning questions of membership in the party and steadfastly implement a line to improve the quality of the individual selection for the party and indoctrination of young communists as a vital condition of ideological and organizational strengthening of party organizations and improving their aggressiveness and fighting spirit.

A recommendation was made to the fleet political administration and political organs to profoundly and comprehensively analyze quantitative and qualitative changes in party collectives and develop from this careful recommendations for party organizations, and strictly deal with political departments, party commissions, and party committees and bureaus where accomplishment of overall party requirements concerning entry into the ranks of the CPSU are concerned.

The attention of political organizations was directed towards consolidating the work of party organizations to indoctrinate members and candidate members of the party in a spirit of high responsibility for belonging to the CPSU, development in them of an aggressive vital position, and creation in every collective of communists of a situation of comradeship, mutual demandingness, and strict adherence to Leninist norms of party life. This will facilitate improvement in the fighting spirit of party organizations and the mobilization of communists and all personnel for a proper greeting to the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth, the 35th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, and successful accomplishment of the missions assigned by the USSR Minister of Defense for 1980.

Navigator's Complaint Reviewed

Moscow KRA SNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by KRA SNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Engr-Capt 2d Rank A. Kontiyevskiy: "The Biography is Written Completely"]

[Text] "Practically speaking my chiefs ignored navigator training. Ships' captains, sensing this, looked upon it apathetically, to say the least. As was to be expected, violations of navigational rules occurred. And, I turned out to be the chief guilty party. The chiefs forgot that I had often turned to them for aid, but did not receive it and worked the problem in isolation."

These are from a letter to the editorial board from Sr Lt S. Maleyev, navigator in a support ship subunit. What are the actual facts?

Maleyev's service as an officer began very successfully in 1975. He was assigned to a missile submarine and, one year later, was selected as the best navigator in the unit.

An excellent start. One would think that, acquiring experience, the officer communist will confidently continue up the ladder to improve proficiency. But, things went, as they say, "a rather different course." There were serious family problems and he was unable to extricate himself from them honorably. This was followed by obvious problems on the job. ("I shrugged everything off," Maleyev now recognizes). Then came a serious violation of military discipline and, early in 1977, the officer was forced to leave the ship and, naturally, not due to his own wishes. And again--with a severe party penalty.

Sr Lt Maleyev arrived at his new duty station with this "money in the bank." He was properly received and no one brought up the past. On the contrary, everyone emphasized the fact that the main thing is to get down to work and serve honorably.

The navigator's property which Maleyev received turned out not to be in the best shape. The officer he replaced had for a long time "prepared himself" for transfer into the reserves and had become negligent. The first to assist Maleyev in coping with the situation was experienced sailor Capt-Lt (Res) I. Yeropolov, then Capt 3rd Rank G. Cherokov, commander of a division of ships, and staff officer Capt 3rd Rank V. Beloshapko worked with him. By the way, Sr Lt Maleyev himself, gradually gaining experience, matured in the new job. Time passed and all penalties, including the party penalty, were removed from the record. He received his promotion on schedule.

Then, completely unexpectedly, several of his subordinates made unforgivable navigational errors. During an inspection on one of the ships located at another port, a senior staff officer discovered major deficiencies in the navigator training of technicians and sailors. The corresponding message was received at the unit from the fleet staff. The unit commander had an unpleasant chat with Sr Lt Maleyev. The officer did not agree with the criticism and announced that others rather than he were guilty.

That was the situation when Maleyev sent the letter to the editorial board.

Detailed analysis demonstrated that several of the complaints expressed in Maleyev's letter were based on fact: Some captains look apathetically upon navigator training and often postpone lessons with ship operators. There is food for thought here for captains. The question concerning assistance from chiefs, the absence of which Maleyev complained about, requires further explanation.

If the assistance had been quantifiable and measured in some type of unit, then overall order would be the case based on "gross" indicators. On the whole officers Beloshapko and Cherokov worked a great deal with Maleyev. But, in what way? Practically speaking prior to the telegram from the fleet staff, that is over a period of 2 or more years that the officer served in the new job, Maleyev was treated literally like a sick man making a slow recovery. There were many errors and deficiencies in his work, as is now perfectly clear. But, no one as regulations call for ever strictly required that the officer himself take action to eliminate deficiencies in navigator support to the ships. Most often Capt 3rd Rank Beloshapko did this.

"We wanted Maleyev to more rapidly get his next promotion, and therefore did not treat him strictly, in other words, we didn't punish him," Cherokov and Beloshapko explained their position. "Now we are not letting him off easy and therefore his penalties are building up."

It's strange, has it been the case for a long time that the way to assist someone is primarily to close your eyes to deficiencies in an officer's service or conduct? Constant, principled, fair demands and good advice along with mandatory monitoring of implementation, rather than substitution or tutelage is, as life teaches, the most effective support and assistance for a young officer mastering a new job.

Political worker officer Ya. Romanovskiy and party bureau members were well aware that Maleyev was not fully successful in his relationships with several captains and their assistants. Some ship operators possess rich cruising experience, are well-versed in navigation affairs, and look upon a young sometimes-lost officer navigator somewhat disdainfully. Others have only a passing acquaintance with navigator support, and, they often told Maleyev "This is a tug, not a cruiser, we will get by."

It would seem that the party bureau would study and discuss this problem and, at the party meeting, there should be discussion of the unsolved problems involving navigator training. However this did not take place. The errors and friction between the navigator and ship operators continued.

Now the other side of the story. When one discusses slow development of individual young officers, their mistakes in service and discipline, conversations as a rule end up with complaints directed towards captains, political workers, and party organizations. But, only a passive role is usually left to the officer himself. But, can it be possible to achieve real development of a young officer without indoctrinating within him the firmest captain's character, without an active life's position, without a readiness to take upon himself the entire responsibility for the assigned task?

When we met Maleyev, he eagerly and with interesting details discussed the early period of his officer service. But, as soon as the conversation turned to problems and errors, a pall was cast over the discussion: "Nobody supported me," "They did not want to correct this," "As long as you are not writing it

up, no one speaks to the ship operator about the error." As if in all of this the officer himself has an indirect relationship. As if not he but others must take responsibility both for his personal errors and for those of subordinates.

I listened to Maleyev's sad tale and involuntarily recalled a meeting with another officer--Capt 3rd Rank Ye. Zakharov.

Zakharov's path to becoming an officer began with difficulty, with a penalty assigned by the fleet commander. But, the lieutenant did not throw up his hands, did not flow with the tide which in the final analysis leads to a "rash of bad luck." He set a main route for himself--through honorable labor clear the record and with great fervor subordinating service and life to the main task, step by step head for the intended goal. Depending upon the understanding of his commanders, he went for support to comrades, to the collective, in whose force and justice he believed infinitely. He counted on coworkers, but did not hope that anyone would do his work for him or close their eyes to his errors.

And, one year later, Zakharov was designated the best battery commander on the cruiser; no one was surprised. Victory was deserved and correct. He was accepted into the ranks of the CPSU on the cruiser and while still a senior lieutenant was designated assistant captain. He was then transferred to an important job on the staff. Everywhere Zakharov went one found the rule--primarily be most demanding upon yourself.

This then is the demandingness and the uncompromising strictness upon oneself which Sr Lt Maleyev lacks still. Moreover, it is a fact that he did not demonstrate special zeal for service. He tried hard only initially after arriving in the subunit, then he began to indulge himself.

Apparently there is no sense in enumerating all of the officer's errors and mistakes concerning navigation. Many occurred also in his personal conduct. For instance, there was a fuss concerning Maleyev the day our meeting took place: They explained why the officer was absent from the unit and why he did not come to work on time.

"I very much wish to help myself during this difficult time," Maleyev writes to the editorial board. Meanwhile, it is difficult to assist a person who trips himself up time after time.

Sr Lt Maleyev is a capable navigator and this is a unanimous opinion. But, every officer I spoke with almost verbatim said the same thing: "Only he must seriously take a look at himself. It is time for this, otherwise it is too late."

Sr Lt Maleyev has a dream of again becoming a navigator on a submarine. This is a fine, noble dream. But, everyone knows that one must strive for a dream. A biography is always written completely. But, since it turned out

that the biography's other chapters do not add to a person's honor, one must do everything possible to see that subsequent chapters compensate for losses. As they say in such instances, make yourself the best.

On a Small ASW Ship

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Capt 3rd Rank V. Koshcheyev, Twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "It Was Considered Minor"]

(Text) The mooring lines had been secured and the small ASW ship which had returned from the sea was locked to the pier. Shortly thereafter the crew was gathered to sum up the socialist competition. There was a detailed discussion of how the combat training missions had been accomplished during the cruise and how effectively the underway miles had been used for training. They also discussed the battle to save fuel and lubricants. They analyzed achievements and noted all progressive steps that had been discovered in this important matter.

At the beginning of the training year the crew made high socialist pledges and decided to conserve a significant sum of money during the winter training period. The figures contained in the pledges initially seemed to some too high for a small ship. But, the months passed and now it was possible with confidence to state that the intended economy goals would be achieved. On each sortie out to sea the crew aktiv logged more figures showing kilograms of fuel and kilowatts of electric power that had been saved....

Take this fact. The ship was once called upon to sail under complex conditions when the engines worked with an overload. One would think that great fuel losses were unavoidable here. But Engr-Capt-Lt A. Tuishev, commander of the electrical and engineering division, having computed the optimal quality of fuel with which the ship had been supplied, was able to reduce the nonproductive expenditures to the minimum.

A search for economy reserves is senseless without strict accounting and control. The ship's captain and communists did not overlook the slightest manifestations of negligence and extravagance. This, it seems, is a minor matter: During the ship's departure from the quay several machine operators did not carefully observe the amount of fuel fed to the burner. Aboard ship they had found out how to go about avoiding such "minor matters." It turns out that they burned up dozens of kilograms of fuel. After this it became a rule in the crew to carefully compute the expenditure of fuel for each watch.

This strict demand heightened the sailors' attention on other "minor matters" as well. Will the engine overheat? Is the oil dripping at all? Saving fuel also depends on all of this.

Not only specialists from the electrical and engineering division, but the entire crew participates in the battle for economy and conservation aboard the ship. The following was a rather typical picture before: The engine is in operation, but the ship does not move an inch from the dock--we are waiting for someone, someone is slow casting off the lines... Similar instances are a rarity now. Each minute when the engine is idling is now strictly recorded and it is mandatory to establish whose fault it is that this happened and to take it into account when competition is summed up.

The crew places great attention on studying leading know-how accumulated on other ships. For example, a trawler aboard which Engr-St Lt V. Kochura is commander of the electrical and engineering division recently returned from a cruise. His subordinates achieved good results in saving fuel and engine operating time. Tuishev with a group of specialists visited their neighbors and learned a great deal from them.

...The ship again is departing the dock. Again the course is out to the open sea. Ahead lay difficult cruise miles and complex combat training missions. The crew has many concerns and among them is to return to port with a reserve of fuel saved and with new successes in the struggle for economical expenditure of resources.

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TANK UNITS: TRAINING, RELATED ACTIVITIES

Battalion Training Shortcomings Noted

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Shevchenko, Red Banner Odessa Military District: "Wasted Minutes"]

[Text] We know, of course, that the methodological training level of exercise directors is crucial to the quality and effectiveness of exercises. Is that level always good enough? Does it measure up to modern demands? This is the subject of a report from N regiment.

The companies in the tank battalion commanded by Captain V. Volkov arrived promptly at the exercise sites that day. Not all of them began the exercises at once, however. The company commanded by Senior Lieutenant A. Utyakov, for example, began the tank gunnery exercise a full hour late, for example. What was the matter?

First, it was learned that Captain V. Zubarev, battalion chief of staff, had not filled out the necessary papers on time. Then, Senior Lieutenant V. Zaleskiy, the training center chief, disappeared somewhere, and without him no one was permitted to enter the firing grounds.... In short, the training process was held up by all sorts of organizational failings. The situation was not straightened out until Lieutenant Colonel L. Kirpach, an officer from higher headquarters, arrived at the firing grounds.

Those involved thought that Senior Lieutenant Utyakov would now try to make up the lost time and organize the exercise so that not a single minute of training time would be wasted. The remaining time was also not used in the best possible manner by far, however. At the training site where Lieutenant V. Nesterov, platoon commander, was in charge of the exercise, for example, the tankmen were working on the norms for dismantling and assembling a machine gun. A total of seven people were

involved. Despite this, each of them only managed to dismantle and reassemble the weapon twice during the training hour, taking a total of 3 minutes to do so. The rest of the time the trainees stood around. It is not surprising that at the end of the exercise not one of them was able to fulfill the excellence norm.

Unfortunately, the situation was no better in the other subunits. Personnel in the company in which Lieutenant Ye. Dudnin was serving as temporary commander was supposed to perform its next firing exercise. The schedule allotted 3 hours for this. The soldiers and NCO's, however, were busy for only a few minutes, that is, for exactly the amount of time required to receive the ammunition, load the magazines, prepare to fire and fire. The rest of the time they stood in formation or smoked, taking shelter from the wind behind the central tower. The most amazing thing about the incident, however, is the fact that Lieutenant Dudnin, as he said himself, believed that organizing the exercise in this manner was not in conflict with the methodological requirements. The most important thing, in his opinion, was to perform the firing exercise. How the exercise was organized was unimportant. This is a basically incorrect attitude. Incidentally, the company's firing performance that day was far from brilliant, although the fighting men had had the opportunity to prepare for the exercise and to perfect the necessary skills. Lieutenant Dudnin was unable to take advantage of the possibilities, to set up the firing lesson in accordance with the methodological requirements.

We encountered an even more disappointing situation in the company commanded by Captain G. Sheredko. After arriving for the tank gunnery exercise the tankmen waited almost 3 hours for the target field to be readied. Training time was passing, while the field was being readied.

"We will do the exercise another time," Captain Sheredko said, and took the company off.

I visited the battalion again sometime later. What had been done there to straighten out the training process, to improve the quality of exercises and drills? The only step taken in the battalion was to punish the company commanders. This was not the solution to the problem, of course. The winter training period is entering its final stage. Right now it is especially important to make efficient use of every hour of training time, to see that every exercise and every drill is performed at a good methodological level. And this means a radical change in the methodological training of the officers. This is discussed a great deal at meetings and assemblies. The situation cannot be corrected with words alone, however. Our task is one of organizing the officers' training more efficiently, and particularly, of improving the quality of the instructors' methodological classes.

Battalion Economy Measures

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Maj S. Margin, tank regiment commander, Red Banner Baltic Military District: "Important Grams"]

[Text] The army and navy continue their campaign for conservation and thrift begun last year at the initiative of personnel of a tank regiment in the Red Banner Baltic Military District. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported on the tankmen's fulfillment of their socialist commitments. Today we shall talk about how the unit's personnel utilized their accumulated experience last year to expand the campaign for conservation and thrift.

Before leaving for the range, Major V. Petukhov, commander of the tank battalion, and the deputy commander for technical affairs calculated the amount of fuel which had been saved. It turned out that by saving literally grams of fuel each day, more than 500 kilograms of the valuable petroleum product had been saved in the subunit during the month. This is extremely typical for the outstanding collective, which was awarded the challenge prize "Best District Tank Battalion." It has become a firm rule in the subunit to save the grams which add up to a ton. Reserves for economizing are persistently sought.

Of the fuel allocated for the technical servicing of the machines alone, for example, hundreds of kilograms has been saved. The valuable petroleum product is not discarded after using it for its primary purpose, as was formerly done, but is left to settle in specially devised containers, strained and then put to use again.

The tankmen have reequipped the lubrication stations in the pool, and each station now has a display showing the procedure for servicing and operating the equipment and giving the materials consumption standards. It is an interesting fact that this team's combat training is improving by the day and that material expenditures have not only not increased in the process, but, on the contrary, have actually dropped.

The battalion commander and the party and Komsomol organization work tirelessly to instill in the men a sense of personal responsibility for the thrifty use of each liter of fuel and the efficient utilization of every training hour.

A special commission for the conservation of materiel has been set up in the unit. Its members include Majors L. Chovnyuk and S. Zobak, Captain V. Drobinin and other officers. They thoroughly analyze the state of affairs in all areas of unit management, see that the most efficient conservation methods are adopted and identify unutilized reserves.

The party organization devotes a great deal of attention to this matter. The campaign for conservation and thrift is centered in the company itself.

When the monthly results are summed up, there is a serious discussion based on principle, which covers not only the gunnery and tank operation exercises performed but also the consumption of fuel and spare parts and of other materiel. Regimental headquarters and the party organization are dealing more strictly with those responsible for wasting materials.

Following one of the tactical exercises it was discovered that an excess amount of fuel had been consumed in the subunit commanded by Captain Yu. Kalmutskiy. A thorough investigation showed that certain of the drivers in that subunit had violated the vehicle operation rules. Specifically, the motor vehicles had frequently been filled with the wrong grade of gasoline. Two pistons in the vehicle driven by Private A. Avakimyan stopped functioning as a result.

This incident was severely criticized in the regiment. It was discussed at a unit party meeting. The ruined pistons went on display in the technical preparation classroom. The room contains a special display containing parts which have been ruined through the fault of one specialist or another, and his name is given. I have to say that this technique for promoting conservation and thrift, a fairly simple one at first glance, is extremely effective. Fewer and fewer ruined parts are showing up in the display.

Another display, the "Thrift List," is far more popular in the regiment, of course. It is located at the vehicle pool. It shows the best results achieved by the tankmen in the campaign for conservation and thrift. A photograph of Private V. Yakovlev, a driver, is attached to the board. He is well known in the regiment as the winner of the fuel conservation competition. In just one year the soldier entered 880 liters of fuel on his individual conservation card, one of which exists for each of our specialists. Yakovlev is now undergoing training at a warrant officer's school. He will return to his regiment upon completing the training.

Matters of conservation and thrift are extensively represented in the mass-agitation plans. All of this is helping to develop in each soldier a sense of great responsibility for the careful handling of socialist property. And from this point of view, every gram of fuel and every kilowatt-hour of electric energy saved are becoming even more important.

Officer Training Described

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Col N. Arsenov, Red Banner Ural Military District: "After the Assemblies"]

[Text] Instructional methods assemblies for platoon commanders were recently conducted in tank regiment N. The young officers witnessed many things of instructional value. A demonstration tank gunnery drill conducted by Captain A. Makhov, commander of an outstanding company, was particularly good.

During the drill there was a lively battle to better the norms at one of the training positions. The results of the competition among the crews were shown on an illuminated display board, of which everyone had a good view.

At another training site the tankmen learned to apply the gunnery rules.

Interesting training techniques and innovative methods were also employed at the other training sites. The assemblies provided the platoon commanders with models of effective organization of exercises. It appeared that they would have a perceptible effect upon the quality of the future training.

It did not turn out exactly that way, however. I recently attended a tank gunnery training session in the platoon commanded by Lieutenant A. Solomin. The exercise was in no way similar to the demonstration class conducted during the assemblies. The instructor set up only three training positions instead of seven. Only two of the trainees fulfilled the norm, and not all of them, as specified in the recommendations. The others watched passively as their comrades performed. A great deal of time was wasted. Lieutenant Solomin was not able to explain what prevented him from planning and conducting the class in the manner recommended at the assemblies.

One had to ask the question: Where was the follow-up work on the part of the senior comrades, those who managed to conduct the assemblies at a fairly high level? Did they perhaps feel that their mission consisted only in setting up the assemblies? It was difficult not to think so, because at a number of other exercises which I attended I also failed to see any of the training techniques demonstrated at the assemblies.

It seems to me that an extremely widespread shortcoming in organizational work has to underlie all this. It is naturally important to skillfully publicize progressive know-how. It is even more important, however, to see that this know-how is adopted by demonstrating party persistence and consistency.

Technical Training of Officers Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 2

[Introduction by Lt Col V. Bogdanovskiy and Maj V. Zhitarenko, and five comments, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "To Infect with One's Personal Example--Discussion of the Letter 'From the Equipment--The Maximum Possible'"]

[Text] From a meeting of officers of the Guards Tank Ural-L'vov Volunteer Division imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. Malinovskiy

"On the battlefield man's fate merges with that of the machine. Love your vehicles and care for them so that they always give you trouble-free service.... Take full advantage of the great maneuverability of the remarkable combat vehicles. Become masters in the execution of tank attacks." These words, which have such a modern ring, were written during the Great Patriotic War. They were taken from a mandate issued by the Ural workers to their sons, the fighting men of a tank corps. The volunteer corps fought heroically. With their bravery and fighting skill the Ural soldiers matched the fortress of Ural armor and the reliability of the remarkable equipment created by the minds of Soviet designers and the hands of the workers. The honor of the legendary corps was inherited by one of the divisions in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

The division received with great enthusiasm the letter from Major V. Shipitsin, "From the Equipment--The Maximum Possible," published in the 24 January 1980 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It was enthusiastically discussed in the subunits and was then placed on the agenda for a division officers meeting. The following statements by participants in that meeting are presented below for the readers.

Guards Colonel Yu. Vodolazov, division commander:

How thoroughly must an officer know the equipment? Must he match the mechanic-driver or the gunner-operator? These questions, raised in the letter, are perfectly valid. I would answer them by saying that it is the officer's duty to know the equipment better than the ordinary specialist, to master the entire list of techniques and methods for its combat employment.

Guards Major M. Fabritsiv, recently promoted, was one of the best battalion commanders in our division. Everyone recognizes him as a skilled tactician. Good things were said about the battalion commander during the critique of every exercise. And behind all this lies a thorough knowledge of the equipment. More than once I observed the officer's great gunnery and driving skill. I say the great skill, the engineer's understanding, with which he directed the reinforcement of a bridge to be crossed by the heavy tracked vehicles. I know that he frequently helped the young vehicle drivers and radio operators find and quickly eliminate a malfunction. These might sound like only details. Taken together, however, they are what create the foundation for a commander's skill.

When a commander has only an incomplete, approximate understanding of the equipment, this lowers the caliber of the decisions he makes and hinders their implementation. In a recent exercise, for example, the battalion commanded by Guards Major V. Zdunov was almost hit by its own artillery fire. Why did this happen? Because the battalion commander had only a general understanding of the capabilities of the supporting subunit and did not thoroughly coordinate matters of interaction.

One more incident. The officers in a subunit of self-propelled artillery units had been assigned the mission of forcing a river from the march, but decided to wait for a crossing to be erected. The current was too rapid, they felt. The senior commander had to intervene. And it was found that the self-propelled vehicles could cross the obstacle without any difficulty. The officers had been misled by their ignorance of the equipment's real capabilities.

The experience of many officers, Guards Major M. Fabritsiv, among them, has shown that the commander's daily concerns in no way prevent him from mastering the equipment. It is not a matter of lacking the time. The trouble lies more in a lack of focus, a sense of responsibility.

There are officers in the division who can no longer be called newcomers: They have served in the division around 5 years without improving their class ratings. There are various reasons for this. One of them lies in the laxity of commanders and chiefs and of party organizations. I am confident that our discussion of the letter, "From the Equipment--The Maximum Possible," will help us to work out stricter criteria for evaluating the professional skill of the officers.

Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Sherovarov, tank company commander:

There are no officers in our company who do not complete the exercises at the firing range or the tank training ground. The officers' ratings are always up to par, as they say. When we take a closer and more searching look, however, we see numerous shortcomings.

The company has a commitment to raise the skills level of two-thirds of the specialists. It is not an easy matter to achieve this goal. In addition to the scheduled training, we also needed to set up a technical group. We began looking for a leader. We found out that none of the officers was prepared to accept the job. They would have to cover matters not included in the program, to delve into subtleties and details. This meant that they themselves would need a perfect understanding of the vehicle.

A solution was found: The group began to function on a battalion scale. At this level we found enthusiastic volunteers, men with a real technical bent. Can we derive satisfaction from such a "solution," however, especially moral satisfaction? Naturally, the answer is no. Each of us must require more of himself.

Guards Major A. Kolomiyets, deputy battalion commander for technical affairs:

The commander's main job is that of supervising the subunit. This is more difficult and important than all the others. I would not argue with Major V. Shipitsin on this issue. He misses a point, however: Why should the commander become deeply involved in mastering the equipment, in its maintenance and servicing, when he has a deputy unit commander for technical affairs? It is for the latter to put the commander's instructions into concrete form and implement them.

I have met commanders who lacked self-confidence without their deputy for technical affairs. In a practice battle they keep their deputy always alongside: They might suddenly need his advice. The officer of technical service has numerous duties of a higher order, however.

It is the duty of the deputy commander for technical affairs to organize the equipment repair service, especially in the field. It is also his job to conduct classes on the more difficult subjects for the company's officers and other personnel. The deputy commander for technical affairs who only covers gaps in the commander's work loses a great deal himself. And the job suffers.

One frequently hears the question: Where is an officer to find the time for improving his technical knowledge? It seems to me that the question should be stated differently: How can we make better use of our time? The officers can learn a great deal, for example, on servicing days in the vehicle pools. While the work is underway in the pool, however, the commander is frequently busy with paperwork in the office.

Guards Senior Lieutenant Ye. Shevchuk, secretary of the battalion party organization:

The author of the letter to the editors is right: Some officers, in fact, do not bother with improving their skills classification, and this situation is not assessed from a position of principle by the senior commanders and party organizations.

Until recently the technical training of the officers did not receive adequate attention in our battalion. The classes conducted by officers and communists Yu. Sykov and A. Kharchenko did not always measure up to our high demands. We had a no-nonsense discussion of the matter. The suggestion was made that we initiate a competition for subunit with the most highly rated officers. The party activists now set up additional classes for the young officers and warrant officers, assist them and publicize advanced know-how. It has become customary to hold evening meetings of questions and answers on technical subjects, quizzes, competitions for the title of best specialist and reviews of technical journals. The benefit is apparent: The officers have greater confidence in the exercises and classes for the personnel, and the training quality has improved.

Guards Major G. Ovechko, regimental staff officer:

The battalion commander's letter makes the following statement: The commander needs a detailed understanding of the specific vehicle more for the methodologically competent training of subordinates than for combat. Can we consider supervision of the training process a secondary task, however? It is akin to organizing combat operations. Victory in a battle can only be achieved by thoroughly trained men who have mastered the equipment and weapons. The commander prepares them for this test.

The commander is expected to be the first to move up to the firing line and the first to perform a driving exercise. This is his service and his moral duty. The men should be led by conspicuous example and exemplary exhibition.

I recently heard a conversation at the tank training ground between Guards Private I. Muslimov and Guards Senior Lieutenant Yu. Karasev, battalion chief of staff. The soldier promised to learn without fail to operate the vehicle as the officer operated it. I had the feeling that the mechanic-driver was deeply affected, excited by the seconds saved by the officer on the track. The soldier had an inspirational reference point.

This is the way it should be in every exercise. In order to get the maximum possible out of the equipment in a battle, we must learn to draw the maximum out of it on the training field. Today, tomorrow, and always.

Follow-Up on Training Criticism

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Capt N. Panyukov, Red Banner North Caucasus Military District: "They Have Grown Accustomed..."]

[Text] A critical report, "A Step In Place," was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in September of last year. It dealt with the fact that in the tank battalion commanded by Major V. Tkachenko no real concern was shown for improving the professional skills of the officers. Many officers, including

the battalion commander himself, had not raised their class ratings in a number of years. Some of the platoon and company commanders achieved poor results in a testing exercise. The report noted that socialist competition was having little effect upon the quality of officer training. It was organized only formally among the battalion officers. There was also criticism for the battalion staff workers, who were satisfied with observing from the sideline. In short, the report pointed out serious deficiencies, the elimination of which would require the focused efforts of the subunit and unit commanders.

The editors hoped to learn about the nature and the effectiveness of this work from a response to their critical article. No response had been received by the date set, however. Nor did battalion personnel reply immediately to a reminder that they are supposed to respond to criticism with an answer. A reply finally came, but not until 3 months had gone by following publication of the article. I shall cite that portion of the reply, which discusses the steps taken:

"We report that a certain amount of action has been taken on the article 'A Step In Place.' It was discussed at a battalion officers meeting and at a meeting of subunit commanders and unit service chiefs. The critical comments were correctly appraised by the battalion communists at a party meeting. We have conducted extra classes on the operation of combat vehicles. The main focus was on the quality of those classes."

And not a word about whether this work eliminated the shortcomings. The response was signed by the secretary of the unit party bureau. We could have welcomed the fact that the party bureau secretary reported to the editors on steps taken, if this had not required a reminder and if there had been a response to the article by those to whom criticism applied to an equal degree. In this case the editors hoped to receive a response from the headquarters or the battalion political section. It was important to learn how the proper district directorates regarded the deficiencies. After all, the article was about an extremely important problem, that of improving officer training.

I repeat, however, that the editors did not receive the anticipated response. It was decided to look into the entire matter on the spot, in the unit. And this is what was learned. The report on steps taken did not reflect the actual situation, to put it mildly. I was never able to find the officers who attended those meetings at which the article was ostensibly discussed. They did not exist. The secretary of the unit party bureau simply decided "to pacify" the editors. Nor do the minutes of party meetings refer to the newspaper's critical article. It was as though they had not noticed it. Finally, there were none of the so-called extra classes for the officers. And there could not have been any, because not even all of the scheduled classes were conducted.

The overall result--the subunit received a satisfactory rating for the results of the year's training but did not fulfill its commitments.

What is the situation in the battalion this training year? What has been done to see that the errors of the past are not repeated?

When one learns how socialist competition is organized among the officers, it is not difficult to conclude that there have been no changes. There continues to be a great deal of formalism in this area of the work. I will describe just one incident by way of illustration: Lieutenant L. Aleksanyan was challenged to enter into competition by three officers. Judging from the words of Aleksanyan himself, however, he is not competing with any of them. This fact is confirmed by his commitments. In fact, half of the battalion officers do not have personal commitments.

The article mentioned deficiencies in the organization of officer training. Incidentally, the superior headquarters had also pointed out these shortcomings, and they were noted in an order issued by the district troop commander. The quality of the officer training is still not what one would call good, however.

I had the opportunity to attend a class in which the officers were being tested on the motor vehicle service. The test was an unusual one. First, Captain G. Rubanenko, class instructor and chief of the regimental motor vehicle service, read the required paragraphs, and the officers then wrote down what they had heard.

"We are just wasting our time," one officer said with feeling after the test.

The article "A Step In Place" noted that the battalion officers had kept the same class ratings for years. The battalion commander was also criticized. Has anything been done to eliminate the shortcomings? Practically nothing. Both Major Tkachenko and the officers under him (we mean those who have accepted personal commitments) have committed themselves to confirm their class rating this year. The same old "step in place."

In September the author of the report noted that there appears to be no desire to look the situation in the battalion square in the face, to acknowledge the shortcomings self-critically. Nor is there any apparent desire on the part of the personnel to make strict demands of themselves today. One has the impression that they have become accustomed to shortcomings in the subunit and in the unit as well, that they have become accustomed to them and have stopped reacting to criticism in a party manner, stopped combating indulgences and simplifications with determination. It would also be difficult to say that the higher headquarters and the political organ are acting correctly in this situation.

Anti-Helicopter Defense Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Maj V. Denko, Red Banner Carpathian Military District: "When There Are Helicopters Above the Battlefield"]

[Text] According to intelligence reports the "enemy" was preparing to use fire support helicopters on the company's sector of attack. This was no surprise for Captain P. Tolkach: The scrub-covered hills, of which there were many in the area, were conducive to the use of helicopters. And these are terrible antitank weapons. Helicopters, as we know, are capable of maneuvering rapidly and assembling without detection for delivering strikes. The great firing range of the antitank guided missiles and the great maneuverability of helicopters all helped to make the rotorcraft an effective weapon against armored targets. Therefore, when the company commander prepared for the attack, he devoted special attention to anti-helicopter defense.

Captain Tolkach could not count on the support of the antiaircraft weapons at the battalion commander's disposal: The battalion commander had warned him that they would be used on a more important sector. He therefore had to get along with his own forces.

Tank subunits, as we know, have effective means of combating planes and helicopters. The combat vehicles are armed with antiaircraft machine guns capable of destroying airborne targets at considerable distances. It is one thing to arrange cover for the subunit when it is deployed in place. He was dealing with an offensive in this case, however. Everything had to be done on the move. The surprise element and the limited time in which the helicopters would remain within firing range meant that the platoon commanders would have to be able to predict the "enemy's" actions. It was important to ascertain the possible positions from which the helicopters might make their attacks and focus the crews upon repelling their raids. A great deal also depended upon the commanders' ability to react to changes in the situation.

After making a decision for the tank platoon commanded by Senior Lieutenant V. Gritsko to approach the "enemy's" flank under cover, the company commander assigned the officer the mission of monitoring the air continuously and remaining in constant readiness to engage in battle with the helicopters. On a map Captain Tolkach indicated the positions at which the tanks might be attacked from the air.

And he was not wrong. As soon as the platoon approached one of the hills, an "enemy" helicopter rose into the air from behind it. It had been waiting on the opposite slopes to ambush the platoon. The tankmen had only moments in which to act. If they did not destroy the helicopter it would launch antitank guided missiles....

It would be difficult to say how this situation would have turned out if not for the company commander's foresight and the vigilance of the platoon personnel. The "enemy" did not catch the tankmen unawares. The ridge of the hill above which the helicopter hovered was already in the sights of the antiaircraft machine guns. A few seconds sufficed for the crews to forestall the "enemy" in opening fire. The platoon's concentrated fire accomplished its purpose.

The fighting men of other platoons also directed accurate fire at air targets in that exercise.

The tankmen's success was only natural. Problems pertaining to preparing the subunits to engage in antiaircraft defense in general, and anti-helicopter defense in particular, receive constant attention from the officers in the unit in which Captain Tolkach serves. In all the classes, drills and exercises the commanders attempt to create a complex ground and air situation requiring initiative, determination and skill on the part of the trainees.

The antiaircraft machine guns are fired by the tank commanders, of course. They are the first to acquire the necessary skills in that unit. The gun layers and the mechanic-drivers in the subunits are also drilled in combating airborne targets.... The task is defined in the following manner: Each tankman must be able to fire accurately at planes and helicopters. And complete interchangeability in this area has been achieved among the crews.

Questions having to do with combating airborne targets are worked out in each tank gunnery exercise. Experience derived from exercises, which have been especially numerous in the concluding phase of the winter training period, has shown that all of this produces perceptible results: The soldiers demonstrate increased skill.

Battalion Commander on Training

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Maj A. Kotov, tank battalion commander, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "It Is Not Just Seconds"]

[Text] There has been an incident in the company commanded by Captain V. Taranchenko: Two junior commanders were late in returning from leave. Now, Taranchenko and I were mulling over what had happened. And there was something to think about.

The company was in good standing in the battalion and the regiment. We had previously mentioned the NCO's who returned late from a town pass more than once among the outstanding participants in the competition. Perhaps what

happened was simply an incidental occurrence to which no special significance should be attached? Not at all. This infraction was a long time in the making.

We recalled the following incident. The battalion had just returned from field exercises. The equipment had to be serviced in short time. As always, there was lively competition among the crews. Senior Sergeant M. Postnikov's crew completed the job ahead of all the others. It was subsequently named the winner. And rightly so, judging from the time it took them to perform the job and the quality of the work. One circumstance of considerable importance was not taken into account, however. Some of the crews were working in the pool at less than full strength, and one of the vehicles was serviced by a single mechanic-driver. Senior Sergeant Postnikov knew about this but did not come to the aid of his comrades. Nothing was said about Postnikov's uncomradely act when the results were summed up. On the contrary, he and his crew were praised for their skill.

The company commander recalled other incidents in which the senior sergeant was cited as an example, without noting his defects of behavior, ignoring the "trivialities." These "trivialities" ultimately began to determine the individual's pattern of behavior. It finally reached the point at which Postnikov "permitted" himself to return late from a town pass.

Captain Taranchenko regretted that the defects in the junior commander's conduct had not been correctly assessed before he committed such a serious infraction. He could have been helped to appraise his own conduct in a stricter and more demanding way, for example, following the incident at the vehicle pool.

It would be difficult to find an officer who does not recognize the great indoctrinational possibilities which lie in socialist competition. We do not always fully utilize these possibilities, however, by far. The evaluation of a soldier's performance sometimes takes into account only the holes in the target and the seconds cut from the norm. The individual's moral qualities are pushed into the background, as it were. This is why, sometimes, "out of the clear blue sky" an outstanding soldier will end up among the violators of military discipline and lose respect in the collective.

Our battalion's staff and party organization devote a great deal of time to organizing competition. And the return is obvious: Two-thirds of the tankmen have earned a higher class rating. During the winter training period we will also fulfill our commitment to turn out experts in the training, rated sportsmen and VSK [military-sports complex] badge holders. With respect to percentages and overall figures, we are in good shape, so to speak. Our use of competition as a tool for indoctrinating the men is still not entirely satisfactory, however.

Violations of regulation requirements like the one mentioned above do occur in the subunit, and this has to alarm us. It means that there is a flaw in

the work performed by us, the educators. Among other things, we have not learned how to indoctrinate the men in the process of competition, to consider moral "parameters" along with the record-breaking seconds.

Recently, one of the companies returned from the range. The commander reported that the platoon commanded by Lieutenant N. Ivanov had demonstrated good training in the firing practice. I was prepared to praise the young officer at a service meeting, to call upon the other platoon commanders to emulate him. I suddenly learned of the following "trait" in the lieutenant's conduct. Prior to the practice firing Ivanov had been ordered to see that the equipment was ready for the exercise. He did everything required of him to the training tanks assigned to his platoon. He paid no attention to the other vehicles. Did the company commander know about this? He did. He considered the platoon's good gunnery performance more important than this "triviality," however.

One encounters this sort of thing every once in a while.

Accurate firing, skillful operation of the vehicles and efficient organization of the training battle are, figuratively speaking, our production indices. We have to be proud of them. As the decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee "On the Continued Improvement of Ideological, Political and Indoctrinational Work" stresses, however, we have to take more than those into account in the competition. It would be impossible to overstate the importance of moral indices, and we must not forget the fact that competition is designed to improve the personality, to help the individual grow, both professionally and spiritually.

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MOTORIZED RIFLE UNITS: TRAINING, RELATED ACTIVITIES

Training Problem Critiqued

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Maj E. Belyayev, Red Banner Turkestan Military District: "Close Combat"]

[Text] Having received a mission to destroy the "enemy" in a population center, Sr Lt S. Lukpanov hurriedly began to prepare to carry it out. It was necessary to hurry. First, only a very little daylight remained and the volume of work which had to be completed before the advance of darkness was rather great. Second, the preceding battles had been very strenuous and the senior lieutenant hoped to give the platoons a break -- even though a small one -- before the night attack.

Having moved with the platoon commanders to the slopes of a hill, Lukpanov carefully studied the terrain on the avenue of advance. A line of trenches, occupied by infantry, could be seen before the attack's front. The terrain on the approaches to the population center was open. Only to the north -- along a hollow--did bushes appear. The company commander considered all this. He decided to advance echeloned to the right and to order the platoon commanded by Lt V. Cheparov to move into the "enemy's" rear along the hollow.

The platoons moved to the attack with the advance of darkness and under cover of artillery fire. The left flank platoon headed by Lt A. Davletov advanced especially quickly. It attacked the "enemy" in the trenches on the edge of the population center. The successful beginning inspired the lieutenant. Having decided that the "enemy" had been neutralized, he ordered his subordinates, who were advancing in a dismounted formation, to take their places in the vehicles again.

At first glance, it seemed that the officer had acted correctly. However, here is how the regimental commander, who was observing the course of the battle, evaluated his actions.

"The platoon commander committed a tactical error. Sometimes it is indeed possible to advance in machines in order to reach a center very quickly and

seize more important objectives after breaking through a defense created by limited forces. However, it would have been risky in this case. The defenders had fortified themselves in the houses and organized a dependable system of antitank fire and obstacles. An attack in machines -- even at night -- in a situation like this is of little effect, as the experience from exercises shows. Before seating the platoon in the machines, Lieutenant Davletov should have destroyed the most important centers of resistance, especially at the crossroads. This could not be managed here without close combat."

Close combat.... This, perhaps, is the most typical feature of operations in a population center. Very much depends here on the ability of motorized riflemen to use small arms and hand grenades effectively, overcome different obstacles, conduct hand-to-hand combat, and coordinate with the tanks and artillery which normally advance right in the combat formations of the motorized rifle subunits or behind them. As subsequent events showed, Lieutenant Davletov's subordinates were insufficiently prepared for this.

The platoon, commanded by Lt V. Zarudskiy, which was spearheading the attack did not achieve success. He managed to break through to the center of the population center. However, the platoon was separated from its neighbors, lost communications with them, and fell into a distinctive fire pocket. The "enemy" quickly made use of this and organized a powerful counterattack. Lieutenant Zarudskiy, fearing an encirclement, had already made up his mind to retreat. However, the company commander interfered. The counterattack managed to be beaten off with the help of the attached tanks.

"A battle in a population center, even if the attackers begin it with large forces, quickly acquires a broken up nature," the regimental commander commented on this episode. "Subunits become separated because the stubborn battle of the defenders for each house, floor and cellar leads to the break-up of the attack's continuous front. There is no clearly defined FERB [forward edge of the battle area] here. Is it necessary to talk about how the role of the commanders of squads and individual groups, which must operate independently, grows in such a situation? Unfortunately, the company commander did not take this into consideration, and he did not even invite the squad commanders on the reconnaissance when he was organizing for the battle. This, as we saw, had a negative effect on their actions. Lieutenant Zarudskiy's decision to retreat was also unjustified. Great Patriotic War experience teaches: One must not make the slightest concession to the enemy in street fighting. The struggle for each house, floor and cellar in a population center requires from a commander special efficiency in making decisions...."

How did events subsequently develop? As was already mentioned, the company commander had sent the platoon commanded by Lieutenant Cheparov to go around the "enemy" along the hollow overgrown with bushes. However, the "enemy" had also considered the nature of the terrain when organizing the defense. The platoon, having completed the move, was met with organized fire as it moved out of the hollow. To the honor of Lieutenant Cheparov it is necessary to say that he quickly oriented himself to the situation, made a correct

decision, and displayed persistence in carrying it out. Having accepted the fire-fight imposed by the "enemy" who were positioned on the exit from the hollow, he secretly moved to their flank with part of his forces. However, this attack was not able to change the overall picture of the battle. The company's surprise blow from the front and rear did not turn out well.

The regimental commander said, "In my view, many deficiencies were based on one thing -- the set pattern in the officers' actions. A set pattern is intolerable during any type of combat --even more so in close combat in a population center. When seizing each successive objective, its own methods of operating, applicable for those conditions, are needed."

Yes, this training battle on a specially outfitted field, where conditions close to those which could take shape during an actual battle in a population center were created for the students, taught quite a few lessons to the motorized riflemen. By gradually complicating the tactical situation through inputs, the exercise director provided the company officers an opportunity to see the deficiencies in the training of their subordinates and in the controlling of men and equipment in close combat.

Firing Training Results

Moscow KRA SNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Guards Sr Lt A. Davidenko, a motorized rifle company commander, Red Banner Carpathian Military District: "It Depends on Each One of Us"]

[Text] The shots of infantry combat vehicles thundered over the moving target gunnery range; the patter of machine gun volleys is heard. It is the gun layer-operators in the platoon commanded by Guards Sr Lt I. Gerchin performing a firing exercise. The motorized riflemen operate skillfully, destroying the target with each round and with each machine gun volley. Training is also intensely taking place at the other training sites. At one of them, motorized riflemen are solving firing tasks; at another, they are learning to launch an ATGM with the aid of an electronic trainer; at a third, they are learning to reconnoiter for targets and determine the range. Based on the accuracy of the motorized riflemen's actions, it is not difficult to determine that the men in this subunit have been trained to use each minute of training time with the most effectiveness.

The training results also speak about the skilful use of training time. The platoon under the command of Senior Lieutenant Gerchin is an excellent one and a right flank one in socialist competition. The officer achieved high effectiveness in the use of training time thanks to the use of advanced instructional methods and the skilful organization of socialist competition during classes. The desire of the motorized riflemen to work today better than yesterday is sensed here during each training session. The commander's persistence, creative research, and daily and painstaking organizational work help him in this. He does a lot, for example, to achieve publicity in competition; he strives to have all his subordinates know who is marching

in front and what is helping him to do this. The officer sees to it that each platoon fighting man sees his growth prospects. The fact that the officer continuously works on himself and improves his professional and instructional methods skills, also helps him.

Guards Sr Lt A. Pen'kov is also noted for this same activity and enthusiasm in work. He pays special attention to the effective dissemination of progressive experience. One of his subordinates has only to better the norms or perform an assigned task in a more qualitative way and the officer immediately suggests that the one, who has distinguished himself, demonstrate his actions in front of his colleagues. This has a great effect since the progressive experience is immediately adopted by everyone. Guards Senior Lieutenant Pen'kov displays a lot of concern for the organization of competition under field conditions. When assigning tasks to subordinates, he invariably reminds them about what norms they must compete on and sets specified goals for them in improving military skill. By creating an atmosphere of healthy rivalry in the platoon, the officer sees to it that each fighting man desires to demonstrate the highest result during classes in the field, better all norms without fail when solving the assigned tasks, and destroy the target with the first shot or the first volley. This desire is embodied in concrete work. The platoon, which Guards Senior Lieutenant Pen'kov commands, operates in an excellent manner during tactical classes and exercises.

Guards Sr Lt Ye. Zababurin arrived in our company at almost the same time as Gerchin and Pen'kov.

The platoon which he received was no worse than the others but it has now surrendered its former position. Why? There are several reasons, but the basic one -- it seems to me -- is the sluggishness in Zababurin's work style. It is necessary to push him all the time and remind him at times of completely evident truths. In contrast to his comrades, he pays little attention to the organization of socialist competition in the platoon during classes and training sessions, considering it completely sufficient that the men know their duties.

This attitude of the officer toward work, of course, cannot fail to have an effect on his subordinates. They do not always act with initiative and enthusiasm during classes. And this is not only displayed when working on norms during training sessions. For example, the platoon fell behind during the move to the attack line during a recent tactical exercise because of the sluggishness of the mechanic drivers. It was said that Guards Senior Lieutenant Zababurin had paid little attention during daily classes when working on driving exercises to training his subordinates in driving the machines at high speeds when there are no roads, and did not display concern for using the mobilizing force of competition.

The errors, committed by Guards Senior Lieutenant Zababurin in training his subordinates and in organizing socialist competition, served as the grounds

for a serious discussion during a recent meeting of the battalion officers. It appears that the critical comments, expressed to him by Gerchin, Pen'kov and other officers, helped Zababurin to understand more deeply that a sub-unit's success is determined to a decisive degree by the attitude of the commander to his job, his work style, and his ability to mobilize subordinates to achieve the planned frontiers.

It is important to remember this always, especially now when the end of the winter training period is approaching. It will soon be asked of each officer: What has been done during the past months, have the obligations in competition been carried out? It is quite evident that the specific results will primarily depend on each one of us, on our energy, initiative and responsibility for the entrusted task.

Company Training on Skis

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Maj B. Kozyp', Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District, "A Company Attacks on Skis"]

[Text] The white caps of the hills clearly appear on the horizon in the flashes of the northern lights. Somewhere spring streams already babble at full speed, but here in Zapolyap'ye surrounded by snow and more snow -- this, of course, makes its own imprint on the troops' training.

From reconnaissance information, the commander of the motorized rifle company, Capt V. Zalutskiy, knew: the "enemy" had dug in on the slopes of one of the hills. The officer also understood that it would not be easy to dislodge them from there: Directly to the front was an area well covered by fire, and to the left and right were steep rocky slopes. The "enemy" will hold on to the strong point with all his strength because the key to their defenses is here. However, it is necessary to take the hill. Otherwise, not only the company but the entire battalion will be tied down here in deep snow. What to do?

It is possible, of course, to wait for dawn on the line which had been reached. The situation suggests the conducting of a final reconnaissance, and the determination of the fire system in the strong point, and there If the company is supported by artillery fire, then they will surely succeed in completing the move with part of their forces and, having attacked the enemy simultaneously from the flank and front, carry out the mission. All this is tempting. However, time The battalion must already be at a new line in the morning.

Zalutskiy thought, "But what if we try from the rear? It will be necessary to move more than two dozen kilometers on skis. This is within the company's capabilities. All the motorized riflemen are rated sportsmen on skis; every third one is a firstclass skier. The skis are ready, as always. It is necessary to act. Until dawn comes, it is possible to cross the open terrain sector unnoticed.

The motorized riflemen begin to ski and proceed along a difficult path. Only the squads headed by Jr Sgt V. Krivenko and P. Salykov and the antitank platoon remained in place. They were ordered to conduct engineer work intensely. Let the "enemy" think that the company is strenuously preparing for a defense....

The motorized riflemen moved in two ski-tracks. Sr Lt O. Dashkov, a candidate for master of sports was in front. Capt G. Kirillov, Lt A. Sazonov, and Sgt I. Nikitin moved in turn to replace him in breaking a path for the skis. They moved quickly. Long marches on skis were no novelty for the company.

The following detail struck me even in the barracks. Skis stood in home-made boxes along the wall next to the room for storing weapons. A detail typical of service in Zapolyar'ye: they regard skis as weapons here. And they, these weapons, are always ready for combat. On the assembly signal, I remember, the motorized riflemen when leaving the barracks picked up their automatic weapons and skis without any special order to do so.

Tundra.... Like congealed waves, the snow-covered crests conceal in themselves quite a few dangers for skiers. At the same time it is necessary to maneuver now and then between boulders and sharp projections of a rocky nature. This is not easy in full combat equipment and with a considerable burden of ammunition. Nevertheless, no one falls behind. True, it happened that a soldier's ski bindings became inoperable. It seemed that a delay was unavoidable during these times. However, the company master sergeant comes in the very nick of time. It is not the first year that WO [praporshchik] V. Stepanov is serving in Zapolyar'ye. He knows what a master sergeant must have when setting out on a ski march. A minute does not pass and the "victim" is again in the column.

While the company was making the move, the stars went out and the quivering flashes of the northern lights vanished. The sun's first light slid over the cold whiteness of the tundra. The company was already at the slope of the hill. Now, it remained to slide down, right onto the heads of the "enemy".

Captain Zalutskiy aimed his binoculars at the line from which the company had taken off under cover of darkness. The two squads and the antitank platoon were exchanging fire with the "enemy." Evidently, the latter thought that the company was firmly tied up in a fire-fight and had given up any further advance. This was also necessary for Captain Zalutskiy. Having deployed the company into a combat formation without noise, he gave the signal to attack.

They came down from the hill like an avalanche. The skiers swiftly rushed into the "enemy's" strong point. The motorized riflemen, who were simulating the defense, also rose up to attack from the front.

The company won the battle.

Regiment Reconnaissance Training

Moscow KHASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Col P. Pananenkov: "A Reconnaissance Chief"]

[Text] The commander of the Guards motorized rifle regiment looked at the officers as if wishing to convince himself that everyone, who was supposed to be here, was present. He had to explain his decision to them. In carrying out the assigned task, the regiment had moved forward quickly, but now the battalions were halted. The forward reconnaissance detachment had detected a prepared "enemy" defense. It was necessary to decide how to act in the new situation. It was a two-sided exercise. The "enemy" was also striving for a victory. What are they planning? What capabilities do they have? In order to understand the situation which had been created, it was necessary to listen to the opinions of his deputies and chiefs of services. The commander once again looked around at those present and landed on a short lean officer.

"Reconnaissance chief, your views...."

Guards Capt Boris Tikhonovich Plyusnin went to the map and began his report. He expected, more than that -- he knew that the regimental commander would address him first. A reconnaissance chief always has the first word when analyzing the opposing side's men and equipment and its intentions.

He spoke concisely and confidently. He had the latest information on the "enemy". Nevertheless, he was not completely calm. A normally unnoticed but now clearly seen small scar over his left eyebrow -- the old trace of a not quite successful storming of a specially equipped obstacle zone -- testified to this.

An element of risk is always present in a commander's decision for combat. The reconnaissance chief is required to do everything to reduce the risk to minimum. The main thing is to find out the "enemy's" capabilities and determine what they are capable of. The opposing sides always try to confuse each other.

It is not Guards Captain Plyusnin's first year in operational intelligence. More than one case of successful deception during exercises is in his memory. Once, he was its "victim".

The task had been assigned to him, at the time still a lieutenant and the commander of a reconnaissance platoon. Determine the forward edge of the "enemy's" defenses. To the armored personnel carrier, forward! He determined it. He reported it. They praised him for his efficiency. A night sweep should have been conducted again. But illumination flares flew up now and then over the defense lines with the advance of darkness. It was clear that the "enemy" was there, why take the unnecessary trouble? During

the night the enemy main forces moved to prepared positions, only small subunits remained. The attackers did not perform their task, they did not break through the defense. The blow came on an almost empty place. Such a simple ruse, and reconnaissance did not discover it. The scouts caught it heavily at the time. The general said during the critique of the exercises.

"The key to victory is reconnaissance. The one who discovers the enemy's designs earliest is the one who will be victorious. However, this key is not achieved by easy work...."

Guards Captain Plyusnin remembers this. He does not doubt the accuracy of the reconnaissance information. He had collated reports which had been received from the regimental scouts with those that came from other sources, summarized them, and analyzed them. No contradictions had been detected. Something else worried him. What surprises had the "enemy" prepared for the night, "for later"? Outwardly, Boris Tikhonovich almost didn't give away his inner tension. Both when he was finishing his report and when he was answering questions, his voice remained just as level as at the beginning, his sentences -- clear and concise.

The commander decided "attack." Having received the mission from him and instructions for a reconnaissance from the chief of staff, Plyusnin went to the reconnaissance subunit. He had been there the night before. The scouts had had interesting observations. Individual items, which at first glance were immaterial details, had under careful analysis helped to reveal several "enemy" platoon strong points which were in hiding to ambush the combat vehicles.

The weather was extremely changeable. During the day -- slush and by evening the mercury column had almost fallen to minus 15.

A young soldier, Tachaurad Bel'dyyev, was jokingly indignant. "Why the disorder, comrade Guards captain" We don't have this in Turkmenia."

The officer answered him in the same tone: "It's also different with us in the Far East."

He himself had not been able to adapt to weather like this right away. Not in Khabarovsk where he lived before his service in the army, not in Blagoveshchensk where he studied in the Higher Tank Command Red Banner School imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union K. A. Meretakov, not in Kamchatka where he began his service as a lieutenant, did he remember such weather.

Special attention must be paid to the equipment when there is such sharp drops in temperature. He held a discussion about this with the mechanic drivers. They listened to the officer's advice with both ears, so to speak. They had been convinced a long time ago that the reconnaissance chief knew the construction and operating rules of the equipment well. He felt confident behind the BMP levers. If required, he could do the work of the gun layer.

However, Boris Tikhonovich was calm about the condition of the equipment. There is a good specialist -- Guards WO [praporshchik] Lev Zubanov -- in the subunit. A diligent individual, he does not overlook anything. But is it possible that something has been overlooked in what is being done in the "enemy" positions? This concern was bringing him to the reconnaissance subunit again. He was going to instruct those who were being sent on the night sweep, to talk about things "for tomorrow" -- once again to convince himself that the soldiers and sergeants had high combat morale.

He was in the regimental scouts' tent until late in the evening. They talked about events in the world and about the tasks which had to be solved. Tomorrow an independent reconnaissance patrol will move forward. Guards Sr Lt Mikhail Vagin will head it. He is a thinking officer full of initiative. The commander of the machine will be Guards Sgt Aleksandr Bragin. He is a tested scout. He had gotten to know him well in the summer of last year during the "Neman" exercises. At the time he had been entrusted with being the first to swim his machine across a river. They trusted his skill and resourcefulness. They also considered the fact that he was not new to water. Prior to his service in the army, he had been a seaman and sailed on the Barents Sea. Bragin had performed the task excellently.

In the morning, the regiment moved to the attack. It broke through the defenses and squeezed the "enemy". The scouts had credit for this also. They had managed to detect about 80 percent of the platoon strong points and other important objectives. The artillerymen destroyed almost all the detected targets. The success of the motorized riflemen made one happy. However, the reconnaissance chief's thoughts were at the time ahead -- there where Vagin's reconnaissance patrol was located. He had not reported anything alarming, and this well-being worried Plyusnin. And not only him. The regiment's chief of staff inquired: "What's new with the scouts?" The commander asked: "Where is the 'enemy'?"

The tension grew. It was time to commit the main forces, the tank subunits. But where are the "enemy's" main reserves? What are they planning? The hilly terrain, covered with forests and groves of small trees, where the attack was being exploited, was very suitable for a hidden concentration of reserves and an antitank ambush. The regimental commander was trying to understand the situation better. Therefore, "Where is the 'enemy', scouts?"

The lack of vigilance by one side gives the other side an opportunity to inflict a surprise blow. Once I had occasion to experience this. It was here, on the Baltic lands, 30 years ago. In breaking through the deeply echeloned defenses of the Hitlerites, the Soviet forces were irrepressibly straining forward. Not everyone remembered the need for vigilance and careful reconnaissance in the offensive rush. And several of our subunits were unexpectedly hit by a counterattack. Some did not withstand the onslaught and fell back. It is not known how everything would have ended if our battalion of heavy assault guns had not been close by.

An event, as they say, of local importance. The commander, who was now leading the regiment in the attack, hardly heard about it. All the more commendable that he was acting vigilantly, and intelligently. Frontline experience also teaches this. In the situation which had taken shape, the reconnaissance chief was the first assistant of the commander. A clear-out task faced him. Determine in an accurate and timely way the concentration area of the forces for the counterattack.

The patrol's report. The sound of engines is on the right, the source has not been determined, the forest is interfering. This immediately caused Plyunnin to prick up his ears. "What is this noise?" He estimated on a map where the scouts were, where the noise was coming from, and the terrain. Is the "enemy" moving up reserves, is he preparing a counterattack, an ambush? Hardly. No surprise massed attack will come from here. The terrain does not permit it. But if he is trying to confuse us: he gives the appearance that he is pulling up reserves here in order to force us to deploy to the right?... Then, it is possible to strike unexpectedly from here, from behind this hill covered by groves of small trees. It is necessary to suggest to Vagin that he pay special attention to this area.

A concentration of tanks was indeed detected here.

... The regiment managed its assigned task. During the critique, there were no criticisms addressed to the regimental scouts.

After the exercises -- new concerns. It is necessary to think about how to improve the special training of the soldiers and sergeants in the reconnaissance subunit. A discussion about this took place during a Komsomol meeting where the progress of socialist competition was examined. The regimental scouts know and are able to do a lot: drive the machines, fire excellently, complete multi-kilometer cross-country races, detect ambushes, read foreign tracks and muddle up their own.... However, the demands on their training are growing constantly.

Reconnaissance is a type of combat support. Rapid and sharp changes in the situation are inherent in modern combat. The obligation and duty of a scout is to help the commander to clearly take the pulse of battle all the time. This means to improve knowledge, abilities and habits tirelessly. Otherwise, it is not possible to cope with assigned tasks. The capabilities for conducting reconnaissance have been considerably expanded. Scouts now "see" several times further and move considerably faster than, let us say, 10 - 15 years ago. The equipment helps. In return, concerns for the training of highly rated specialists have been added....

Current tasks have accumulated. It is necessary to analyze the results of the exercises carefully. It is time to conduct a scheduled short exercise on reconnaissance training. Tomorrow -- a political information class for the soldiers and sergeants. Prepare for it. Here is the report with which to address a Komsomol meeting; it is still not quite worked out.

One also cannot forget about replenishing the supply of one's own knowledge. Guards Captain Plyusnin compiles a personal long-range plan -- not for a report but for a self-check in order not to overlook something important in day-to-day cares. Service and social tasks and studies are provided for in the plan. True, everything is not always carried out as planned. Unforeseen circumstances introduce adjustments.

The responsibility for training all the regiment's personnel in his specialty is on his shoulders. Short exercises, seminars, officer and warrant officer examinations, check-out classes in the regiment's subunits on reconnaissance training -- everything so that motorized riflemen will know the probable enemy better, so that commanders will be able to conduct reconnaissance intelligently. The training base again is his concern. There is a good reconnaissance training classroom in the regiment. "Scout corners" have been set up in the companies. The next stage is stands in the battalions. He is the reconnaissance chief of a regiment. Therefore, the scouts in all the other services are in his field of view.

Normally, everyone remembers about reconnaissance in a combat situation. During the years of the Great Patriotic War, non-T/O reconnaissance platoons were even created in rifle battalions. Under normal combat training conditions, they sometimes forget about one of the basic requirements of reconnaissance -- its continuity. Who must be concerned that this does not happen? Primarily -- the reconnaissance chief. He has the first word in this job.

... By evening the temperature had again fallen. The crunch of the snow under the boots of the short and lean captain rings out resonantly. Boris Tikhonovich is hurrying to a motorized rifle battalion. It is necessary to conduct a demonstration class for the battalion commander: a motorized rifle platoon on an independent reconnaissance patrol. The reconnaissance chief wants to talk about all the details of this class in advance.

Battalion Training Exercise

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Maj B. Dorokhov and Maj N. Ron, Red Banner Volga Military District: "By Fire and Maneuver"]

[Text] The motorized rifle battalion commanded by Capt V. Troitskiy had assumed the defense on the bank of a small river. There was no contact with the "enemy". Based on information from higher headquarters, the "enemy" who was superior in tanks, was pressing our subunits. Here near the river, the battle could begin at dawn of the following day. Night remained for the engineer preparations of the strong points.

Captain Troitskiy issued the necessary instructions. The company which Sr Lt P. Alekseyev commands was deployed on the river bank itself. Without delay, the company command sent out combat outposts, ordered the engineers

to determine the thickness of the ice and reconnoiter the places where the "enemy" could set up fords. The reconnaissance information did not make him happy. The ice would not support heavy equipment; however, there were six places in the sector suitable for setting up fords and it was possible to set up crossings with the aid of bridge layers. The company commander gave orders to mine the approaches to the river. He positioned the platoon strong points so that the enemy would come under flanking fire if he managed to drive a wedge into the defense.

The antitank platoon headed by Lt V. Mityayev dug in on the edge of the forest. It was possible to move from here in a swift rush to where the greatest threat had arisen.

The work boiled all night. The motorized riflemen succeeded in setting up alternate positions as well as the primary ones, and installed mock-ups of infantry fighting vehicles and other equipment in them. Meanwhile, estimates were made in the battalion's headquarters of the most probable variants of "enemy" actions". Captain Troitskiy allotted a special role to the attached tank company. Located in the rear behind the right flank, it was prepared to strike the "enemy's" flank if the latter managed to force the river.

The "enemy" was also preparing for the battle. His reconnaissance and sabotage groups were able to cut several communications lines, they put an electric power station out of action, and find at one of the tents for warming personnel. Thus the defenders had occasion to solve the tasks of combat security completely.

The attacking side's scouts headed by Lt V. Mikhaylov, "felt" the defense in three places and in general determined the trace of the FEBA correctly. Based on the information received, the battalion commander, Maj V. Koryukin, assigned tanks to the artillerymen. A hail of fire had to plaster the defenders' positions during the fire preparation for the attack.

Senior Lieutenant Alekseyev, whose company was defending in an especially dangerous sector, decided however not to wait for the beginning of the "enemy's" fire preparation. With the permission of the battalion commander he withdrew two platoons to the rear. The third platoon commanded by Sr Sgt S. Obydenov, which was divided into squads, simulated the defense in all the strong points. The BMP which remained in the positions "warmed up" their engines more frequently than normal. The motorized riflemen in a thinned out combat formation repulsed the "enemy" reconnaissance groups with intense machine gun and automatic weapons fire.

The plan succeeded. At dawn, the attackers' artillery opened fire on a site which was practically empty. When the "enemy" tanks, forced the river and moved to the attack, the subordinates of Senior Sergeant Obydenov left the positions which had been occupied. Having advanced about 400 - 500 meters

without meeting any resistance, the attackers fell into a fire pocket. Guns and grenade launchers beat at the tanks from the ambush. Captain Troitskiy also used the attached tank company successfully. It counterattacked the "enemy" in the flank and rear. The attackers, cut off from the crossings, "lost" a large part of the machines in the first echelon. The battles outcome was predetermined.

...What made this two-sided tactical exercise instructive? First of all it was the creative approach to the solution of the combat tasks. Captain Troitskiy had conducted the defense skilfully and was able to outwait the "enemy". The motorized riflemen held on to the occupied line although the superiority in men and equipment was not on their side.

Political Work Evaluated

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Col P. Kolotovskiy, political directorate inspector, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, and Maj V. Zhitarenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Not by These Methods"]

[Text] The motorized rifle battalion which Maj L. Shevchenko commands, was considered the best one in the regiment for almost all of the last training year. During party meetings and sessions of the party committee the communists of this battalion were invariably praised, and confidence was expressed that the progressive people would not let down. But they did let down. Two of this battalion's companies did not carry out the obligations in competition and finished the training year lower than their capabilities.

After this, the party committee went to an extreme. Reproaches were strewn on the battalion's communists and punishments were announced for some. During a session of the party committee where the results of the inspection were examined, the communist leaders of this battalion were subjected to severe criticism without going into the reasons for the failure. These also were not silent. To them -- a reproach; in reply -- an excuse. Another reproach -- a new attempt to justify themselves.

"You overloaded firing training."

Answer:

"The firing range equipment is obsolete."

Reporach.

"The condition of the equipment is not top rate"

In reply -- a list of spare parts not received from the technical unit....

And no one stood up, no one said: "Enough, comrades! This is not a party discussion you are conducting." It was necessary to say this because it is

not its task to boil a party meeting down to skirmishes. It is also not its task to examine a question, forgetting about its party aspect.

For example, why did the company, which communist Lt S. Martynenko commands, receive an unsatisfactory rating? If one agrees with the argument of the obsolete firing range equipment, then in this case it would be necessary to ask officer Martynenko and the other communists why they had not displayed the necessary party principledness earlier and why they had reconciled themselves with oversimplifications in gunnery training.

Other companies also worked on the firing range using this same equipment. However, their ratings were higher, and even were excellent. Logic suggests that it is high time to raise the question of the battalion communists' attitude toward the performance of their immediate duties and talk about the desire of some of them to embroider the state of affairs in a subunit, about the absence of self-criticism, about complacency, and about violations of CPSU regulation requirements for party members by some comrades.

All these questions remained somehow to the side. The party committee members were thus not able to tell the men to their faces the sad truth that they had lowered their party demandingness on themselves. Therefore, it was not a session of the committee that took place but rather something similar to an "administrative dressing down."

Several other sessions of the party committee took place in this same spirit. A similar style was also reflected in the nature of party meetings. The discussion during them was limited to duplicating the conclusions drawn by the commander and staff from the combat training results, and as "practical measures" only calls "to work better", "to pay more attention" ... rang out. Such a superficial approach, the repetition of already known facts, and general discussions of them deprived the party meetings of their militant political spirit. They tried ever less frequently here to examine how and in what ways to ensure the vanguard role of the communists and their militancy in the struggle for the best and what is progressive in training and indoctrinational methods and the struggle against weaknesses in training and complacency. Such concepts, as the responsibility of a party member, his active and vital position, political standards, moral purity, ..., came to the fore less and less. Instances of failure in combat training and the personal work of the communists were not examined through the prism of these criteria, and therefore a "purely managerial" discussion often took place during the meetings. They talked about the shortage of spare parts, nuts and screws, about the fact that somewhere the walls were not painted in this color,....

Let us stipulate right away: We are not at all against discussions of purely practical questions. We are talking about examining them not from an administrative and work viewpoint but from a party viewpoint -- and to solve them from this viewpoint, through the indoctrination of people, by creating an atmosphere of exactingness and friendly work in the collectives.

One company recently received an unsatisfactory rating for its performance of firing exercises. Maj L. Matorin, the chief of the regiment's missile and artillery armament service, who because of an error or carelessness had shorted this company several hundred rounds, was recognized as the guilty party. However, the reason for this -- they did not begin to examine.

One of the communist leaders declared his decision: "For that matter, we will institute party proceedings against him."

They have become accustomed to such declarations in the regiment. The phrase has become common. They simply scare one with it. As they say, a lot of brains are not required here. It is not necessary to examine some matter. True, they sometimes do "examine": They interfere in the progress of the classes, substituting for its leader.

All these facts are far from being harmless and innocuous. In the final analysis, party influence on the state of affairs is weakened. It is a pity that Maj A. Mikhaillenkov, who was the party committee secretary here during the last reporting period, did not attach importance to this. They did not get around to correcting it in time. In general, an industrious and conscientious secretary but one who did not have sufficient experience, "stewed in his own juice". He did not receive any business-like and concrete help from the political section. Throughout last year, a representative of the division's political section was present at only one regimental party meeting. During that same year, more than 30 sessions of the party committee were held here. And all of them did without the attention of the political section. Of course, seminars, assemblies and meetings of the party activists were conducted. Here on the spot they "did not find" an opportunity to examine the life of the regimental party organization in the political organ. They began to do this only when comrades from the higher political organ came to the regiment.

The work of the party committee and its new secretary has now been revitalized considerably. The exactingness on communists for their performance of party member duties was increased, and the plan for carrying out the critical comments -- which were expressed during and after the meeting to hear reports and elect officials -- is being carried out.

However, far from everything has been done. The faulty work style of the party committee and the party bureaus of the battalions has still not been completely eradicated. For example, the party bureau of the battalion, about which we talked above, has still not drawn the necessary conclusions for itself from the failures of the two companies at the end of the training year. Some mistakes of the past are being repeated. Little is being done to increase the effectiveness of socialist competition among the men. Just as before so now, feedback information on hitting targets is not always achieved on the firing range because of the obsolete equipment. This drags out the firing time very much and created nervousness for the leaders. The new party secretary knows all this. However, it looks as if he has been

contaminated with adherence to the same methods which were used earlier -- to punish, to penalize. This adherence also comes from the lack of desire or inability to delve into a matter, and find the reasons for the trouble and more effective party work forms and methods to eliminate a specific deficiency.

It is simple to punish. However the main thing is to prompt an individual, to inspire him, to raise his attitude, to enkindle a creative fire in him, to help him, to direct progressive experience to the question being inquired into This is the path, as practice proves, that it is necessary to follow.

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AVIATION UNITS: TRAINING, RELATED ACTIVITIES

Bomber Regiment Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Col V. Izgarshev: "Competition Initiators: With the First Bomb or the First Missile"]

[Text] "The tactical environment for 1932 hours is shaping up as follows...." Col G. Treznuy, the air regiment's commander, glances over the pilots and navigators sitting in the classroom, takes the pointer and goes to the map: "The 'enemy' is conducting retrograde combat in the northern sector toward his prepared line of defense. His fighter aircraft are providing cover for his forces and targets against air strikes...."

"Flight leader LtCol Aleksandr Shestakov, think about how you can penetrate these covering forces the best, get through to the targets in the 'enemy's' defensive depth and deliver violent strikes against them with the first bomb or the first missile. And you, squadron commanders, LtCol Viktor Kamenev and Capt Viktor Rumyantsev and everybody who will be flying tomorrow night, think it out on paper, as the saying goes, think about all your possible inflight options considering the difficult tactical land and air environment...."

It has become a firm rule in this outstanding bomber air regiment to always conduct their flights in a difficult, fluid tactical environment, both on the ground and in the air. I would especially like to emphasize this fact because it is no secret that in some places they only take tactics seriously during tactical flying exercises.

This resourceful regiment considers the well-known Air Force flying triad--equipment, aerodynamics, tactics--as a unit while training fighting airmen. Perhaps this is why they are successfully mastering aircraft systems and accomplishing very difficult operational flying training missions with an

invariable rating of outstanding and why the regiment has operated without any flying accidents for over 20 years now.

We are over three months into the training year. What has been done here to reach the planned milestones? What new changes have been made in the airmen's affairs by the lofty position of competition initiators? Let's begin with a few facts. The pledges to increase the class rating of flying personnel are being successfully accomplished. Even now, all the aircrew commanders and 87 percent of the navigators are specialists 1st class. The remaining navigators also have a high class rating--they are specialists 2nd class.

The average grade for navigation and bombing skills is 4.6 and it is 4.7 for tactical missile employment. If the reader could compare these figures to the ones noted down in the men's pledges, he would be convinced that all these figures already only differ slightly from those planned for the end of the year. It should also be pointed out that the qualitative side of these figures has been a great deal higher than in past years. The outstanding level of personnel training, their technical and tactical maturity make it possible to fly and conduct missile launches and bombing under more adverse weather conditions, at night, above the clouds and in the clouds.

While the airmen have already almost reached their final goals, this does not mean they have nothing to do. For the airmen, each subsequent flight is not a repetition of the previous ones. Without fail, there will be something new, something more complex and difficult in it. With this in mind, the commanders, political officers, party committee and headquarters mobilized all the men's efforts--from the air crew commander to the junior aircraft specialist--to achieve outstanding results for each flying day and for each flight. In a spirit of competition, healthy rivalry and friendly, reciprocal assistance, the competition for outstanding training day results has developed on a widespread basis within the regiment's aircrews, teams, maintenance crews, air squadrons and Technical Maintenance Unit (TMU).

All the units are equipped with competition screens. Who distinguished themselves today? Who is ahead? Who is behind? The competition screen provides an answer to these questions. The men see their successes and their errors. Everything is taken into account--training, conduct and participation in the group's social life and political affairs. Two pilots have the same high mark. Both are communists, specialists 1st class and outstanding in training. But, first place goes

to Capt Valeriy Nikitin: he has a slightly higher performance rating for bombing flights. Within the TMU, one of the crews achieved the same result as the outstanding crew headed by Tech Svc Capt V. Nikolayev. But, first place remained with officer Nilolayev's subordinates. They have a higher degree of organization and military and work discipline.

The desire to achieve a high degree of effectiveness in competition is an important desire which distinguishes the affairs of today's airmen. And, too, high standards and an uncompromising attitude in group interactions. Things which were negative, things which sometimes interfered with normal training and activities and things which were previously accepted evoke a sharp protest and hostility today. People who are not pulling their load do not feel at home. And, it has been extremely bad for people who violate prescribed procedures and our moral norms. For example, the communists were forced to expel Engr-Maj V. Sotnikov from the CPSU; he had abused alcohol and had flagrantly violated party and military discipline. He was also removed from the position he held.

...An evaluation of the month's competition results is underway. Reports were given by Col G. Treznyuk and LtCol A. Mironov, the regimental political officer. But, there was little in the reports about what had been achieved. Primary attention was focused on outstanding problems and on uncovering slack.

The discussion in the regiment's units was exactly the same: objective, sharp and principled. Only a group which is strong, healthy and sure of its strength can criticize regardless of the individuals concerned and can drag out into the open everything that hinders its progress.

But, in my opinion, there is something lacking in the competition; it is more concrete publicity on advanced techniques and persistence in implementing them. For three months in a row, the squadron commanded by Lt V. Kamenev, a pilot 1st class and communist, has held first place within the regiment. And, the same amount of time has been spent in last place by the squadron commanded by Capt V. Rumyantsev, a pilot 1st class and communist. Do the stragglers know all about the leading unit's methods for organizing training? I don't think so. Another example. During one of the flying days, the weapons specialists in Capt Rumyantsev's squadron distinguished themselves. Their job guaranteed the lead crew's success in bombing. For some reason, the technicians'

experience and skills were not accessible to their colleagues from the adjacent squadron.

And, another case attracts our attention. During my four-day visit to the regiment, four extremely representative higher headquarters and branch commissions arrived there. It is completely understandable that they all arrived at the regiment with the best of intentions. But, you will have to agree that assistance is extremely difficult when it comes from four headquarters at the same time. The airmen joked that: "We Live under the Motto 'Not a Single Day Without a Commission.'" This is all overhead--an excess of commissions. They have to be met, escorted and given the appropriate documents and information. All of this takes lots of time. It would be advisable to take a more rational approach in sending various commissions to the regiment.

...1932 hours. In the light of the search lights, the roar of jet engines breaks the frosty, evening twilight as a powerful missile-armed aircraft dashes along the runway on after-burner. Behind it comes a second, a third.... Like bright fiery stars, they suddenly dart off into the sky. The deputy regimental commander, pilot 1st class and communist, A. Shestakov, is leading a group of bombers across the "frontlines" into the "enemy's" rear. As always, their missile and bomb strikes will be invincible and on target.

Airbase Support Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Col V. Yumashev: "The Airfield is Ready for Flying"]

[Text] According to the calendar, this was the first month of spring. But, how changeable the weather is. There was a thaw yesterday evening. Then, suddenly thick of flakes of snow began to fall. And tomorrow is a flying day. Having been warned ahead of time by the weathermen about the increased snowfall, SrLt Yershov, the flightline duty officer, also informed SrLt S. Shalayev, the flightline support company commander, in advance that it would be necessary to put his men and specialized vehicles on immediate standby.

Although the snow was coming down heavily, it was dry. "This means we will not have to send out the heat vehicles yet," Yershov decided. "We can limit it to the multiple-unit spray trucks."

And, indeed, the multiple-unit spray trucks were effective in cleaning the light, loose snow off the airfield. The special-purpose vehicle section NCOIC's experience also played a considerable part in this. SSgt V. Pen'kov accurately established the most advantageous speed for the vehicles and gave them their bearings while strictly monitoring the drivers' observance of the assigned intervals and distance.

SrLt Yershov contentedly watched the clear-cut actions of the drivers and the uninterrupted operation of the equipment which was sweeping the snow to the side of the runway. He knew that no matter what surprises the elements had in store for them, the airfield support specialists would meet them fully armed. The battalion efficiently sees to it that the airfield is prepared for flying. As the party organization's secretary, Yershov makes a considerable contribution to these preparations.

I recall that, before the beginning of the training year, he recommended that the unit communists discuss the issue of how to boost the airfield's readiness for all-weather flights even higher. "For this purpose, it is necessary that all the equipment be in good working order," said Maj S. Narmakhambetov, a communist and presently acting commander, in his appearance at the meeting. "And, I hope the participants in the suggestion program will help us modify some of the vehicles to blow sideways."

"Outstanding equipment status, is of course, an important factor," the party bureau secretary supported him. "But, to a decisive extent, on-the-job success depends upon the men and their aggressiveness. Let's develop the competition for best specialist and for mastering related specialties on a more widespread basis."

The company communists set the example in their military work. All the equipment was repaired and ready for action. Specialists from the regimental TMU headed by Engr-LtCol G. Pechenkin provided skilled assistance to the airfield support specialists in performing routine maintenance on the aircraft engine-equipped heat vehicles.

Suggestion program participants have made an important contribution to preparing the equipment for operational use.

"We don't need the runway sweeper right now. Will you let us modify the vehicle by installing a jet engine?" WO V. Chishonkov asked the commander. After receiving his approval and with

SSgt S. Chirvin's assistance, he carried out the necessary installation work and terminated the controls for the engine in the vehicle cab. This unit efficiently blows the snow aside. So, they called it the "sidewind."

They modified another vehicle as a "sidewind." There could have been more. But, although the heat vehicles were effective, they required a lot of aviation fuel. And the men of the unit are competing to conserve POL. So, they decided that it would be more advantageous to use chemicals which speed up the melting snow. It's true that there was no equipment to disperse them at first. So, participants in the suggestion program came to the rescue again. WO Yu. Voykin made a device which worked out very well in practice.

Many hours of worktime are required for relieving special-purpose vehicle drivers. Men who have mastered related specialties came to our assistance here. Incidentally, they presently make up over 80 percent of the company's personnel. For example, WO V. Chishonkov can skillfully operate all the unit's current equipment. SSgt's V. Palyakov, S. Chirvin and V. Pen'kov have also matched him. Moreover, the most experienced drivers in the adjacent transportation company have also mastered the operation of airfield cleaning equipment.

...The air regiment commander glanced from the flight schedule to the clock: the time for the weather reconnaissance sortie was approaching. Would the airfield support specialists be able to cope with the elements?

The telephone rang. It was Maj S. Narmakhambetov's voice on the receiver. He reported, as always: "The airfield is ready for flying."

Helicopter Search-Rescue Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by LtCol V. Seledkin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent, Moscow Air Defense District: "At the First Signal"]

[Text] The flight controller's commands and the pilots' responses could be heard over the loudspeaker. The radio communications were the visible thread that linked the now empty, quiet airfield with the aircraft crews that were carrying out their mission.

"Roger...course...altitude....," the loudspeaker clearly announced after a pause filled with the rasping rustle of the airwaves.

"Maj Orlov is reporting," explained Capt A. Baburin after hearing the pilot's call sign; the captain was sitting at his desk and was leisurely making notes in the operations log. After listening to the radio traffic, he named the other airmen who were airborne at that time: "Capt Kovalev, SrLt Kostyakov.... Outstanding pilots!"

Baburin thoughtfully looked out the window through which the low, gray shroud-covered sky was visible. It looked like he was leading the helicopter over the expanses of distant snow-covered fields in his mind, was listening to the measured roar of the engines and felt the brisk pull of the controls. But, today the captain's combat post was on the ground, in the small hut where the alert crew for the search and rescue (SAR) helicopter was located.

The rules of the sky are strict. They do not forgive the slightest error or even a malfunction which is barely noticeable at first glance. Therefore, with the maximum possible foresight, flying safety regulations are directed at ensuring that the pilot will be able to successfully carry out any mission. But, even if there is an unforeseen emergency situation, the airmen must be sure that somebody will immediately come to their assistance. While flights are in progress, a SAR aircraft or helicopter is on alert at the airfield.

This is why Capt Baburin's crew is presently located in a room of the small hut not far from the POL point. The airmen only have a few minutes to take their positions in the helicopter and immediately take off. As a rule, the rescue team usually receives its SAR mission when it is airborne. Time is especially valuable to them--each second can be decisive.

It is no accident that there is active competition among the SAR helicopter crews which take turns pulling alert while flights are in progress to reduce their preflight time. During the last training session, Maj Yu. Turbayev's subordinates achieved the best results. They were able to beat the standard for an outstanding rating by a factor of 1.5.

Pilot 1st class Maj Yu. Turbayev's crew also distinguished itself during exercises. The airmen were assigned the training mission of finding the "survivors." By skillfully using radio direction finding facilities, the helicopter crew quickly

arrived in the search area. From altitude, the aircraft commander noticed an orange triangle below in a snow-covered forest clearing. It was made out of the "survivors'" spread-out parachute canopies. The prearranged sign told them that the men needed food and warm clothing. Maj Yu. Turbayev immediately reported this to the command post. Then, he skillfully guided the regiment's SAR team to the site of the "accident."

The unit pays a great deal of attention to improving the expertise of the crews participating in SAR operations. Special drills and training sessions are conducted on a regular basis here. The airmen learn to locate the site of an "accident" accurately and quickly and they learn to make a skilled assessment of it. During their training, the trainees acquire skills for rendering first aid. For example, they must be able to make an improvised lean-to out of the materials at hand and they must be able to prepare hot food.

The helicopter unit has a lot of first-class specialists and military affairs experts. Among them are Majs G. Galuzo and Yu. Turbayev and Capt A. Semenov. They willingly share their experience and knowledge with the junior officers and they willingly help them master the art of SAR work quickly.

...A routine day of operational training is drawing to a close. The aircraft are landing one after the other. The loudspeaker in the crew alert room is quiet. But, it will be a while before Capt Baburin and his comrades get home. Their combat watch continues.

Transient Aircrew Complaint

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Capt V. Gvozdev, pilot 1st class: "Letter to the Editor: We Went Away Empty-Handed"]

[Text] While returning to our unit, two of our crews landed at a Red Banner Siberian Military District airfield. We had to have the aircraft checked out and serviced here while the flight crews had to rest and get ready to continue their flight.

"Now, we will be able to taste the Siberian meat dumplings," the crews joked among themselves. "The Siberians are a hospitable people...."

Indeed, the unit duty officer told us how to reach the flight crew dining hall and wished us bon appetit. However, we had barely crossed the threshold when we encountered a cold reception. The acting dining hall NCOIC, career MSgt R. Agayev, stated that he would not feed the crews. We were not able to get any help from Tech Svc Maj M. Trunin, the airbase support unit commander.

Finally, we made our way to the Pip, the local BX's snack bar. We really made our way there because we had to fight our way through a crowd of drinkers. The problem was that the snack bar was doing a brisk business in cheap ersatz wines and almost everybody who was thirsty gathered here from throughout the base. They were helping the public catering employees fulfill their sales plan. Alas, they were doing this by lowering the standards of service for other guests.

The Pip was dirty and the selection was not great. We were not able to savor the famous Siberian meat dumplings, as the saying goes. So, we left empty-handed although we had a flight in the morning and had to accomplish a difficult mission.

Aircraft Technician Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Tech Svc Lt G. Dombrovskiy, TMU section chief, Far East Military District: "Good Lessons"]

[Text] My first steps on my own in an air regiment. Based on my own experience, I was convinced that they do not exactly come easily. But, how was it then? I graduated from the Vasil'kovskoye Air Force Technical School imeni the 50th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Leninist Komsomol. I arrived in a flying unit with the firm intention to carry out the duties of an aircraft technician only in an outstanding manner. But, soon afterwards, I ran up against a lot of problems. I probably would not have been able to overcome some of them myself if it had not been for the senior, experienced comrades alongside me. I will always remember their assistance and their kind attitude with gratitude.

How did I feel at first? I lacked practical skills. At school, I had specialized in bomber maintenance and there were fighters here. I immediately had to begin training. I relied primarily on independent study. But, the deadline set for me and my classmates to master a new aircraft seemed extremely short based on our preconceptions as cadets. But,

an order is an order. And we had to make every effort to execute it precisely. While poring over the equipment specifications and manuals, I had many kind memories during those tense days of Engr-LtCol Ye. Malyutin who taught aircraft engine design at the school. He carefully armed us with in-depth knowledge and with principles for independent study of training aids.

Moreover, we, the newcomers, had our fair share of attention in the unit. We frequently received qualified advice from Engr-Capt V. Lobas, a recent military academy graduate. At the same time, we acquired our technical standards from him and our skills for working with aircraft operating instructions. This was subsequently very beneficial to us in our practical activities. I passed the test for the right to maintain aircraft on my own. Then, later.... The saying that life teaches and tests you at the same time is true. I remember my first winter in the Far East as a severe test when I had to get aircraft ready in fierce cold and severe winds. But, was this really the only problem?

Once, after the fighter assigned to me had already flown several sorties and was being prepared for the next sortie, I was standing, as usual, on the ladder next to the cockpit and was watching the pilot. He pressed the engine start button. I looked at the tachometer and didn't believe my eyes: the rpm's were not increasing although you could hear the turbine starter operating. Another try. Another. The same result. It was no joking matter, I was upset. Recalling the starting circuit, I decided that it was clear that the cause of the malfunction would be found in the starting units. I opened the hatches. I was satisfied: fuel was being injected but there was no spark. The section technician--who had rushed to my assistance--and I quickly changed the glow plug. We repeated the start-up procedure--another failure.

So, the next sortie did not take place. When our excitement cooled down, the section technician thought it over and said: "I'm sure that the cause is superficial and we rushed to dig into the interior. Haste in our business is the number one enemy...."

We conducted an analysis proceeding "from the simple to the complex." We remembered who had worked on the aircraft the evening before and what maintenance teams they were from. There had been more electrical equipment specialists than anybody else. Consequently, we decided to begin with the basics in their department--an inspection of the electrical circuit for the automatic engine start system. And, what did

we find? Upon opening one of the hatches, our attention was immediately drawn to a plug connector. It was not fastened and had obviously come apart from the vibration when the aircraft taxied up to the hardstand. A few minutes were required to correct the malfunction. But, in the final analysis, a lot of time was unjustifiably wasted in troubleshooting it.

I drew a basic conclusion from this: since you are the aircraft technician, in other words, the owner of this aircraft, this means that it is mandatory for you to know it down to the slightest detail and it is mandatory that you carefully monitor everything the specialists do to it. Strict supervision based on in-depth knowledge--this is the assurance of outstanding aircraft equipment maintenance, one of the guarantees that the maximum can be obtained from it during the flight shift.

And, here is another lesson. We were getting a fighter ready for a follow-on sortie at night. Suddenly I noticed that the pressure in the pneumatic system had dropped to almost the half-way mark. What was the problem? I will not hide the fact that I lost my head at first: this was the first time that I had encountered this situation. The most incredible ideas rushed to my head. It's a good thing that the deputy squadron commander for aviation engineering services arrived in the nick of time and brought me back down to earth, as the saying goes.

"Did you check the valve?" calmly asked Tech Svc Capt A. Kanashevich.

I remember that I tried to object: I said nothing can happen to it--the cause is obviously more serious than that. But, following my senior officer's instructions, I inspected the valve anyhow. What a surprise for me when I found out that this was the problem. The accumulated moisture had frozen and the valve had begun to bleed off air. In short, an elementary malfunction which was easily corrected. But, the conclusion from this was instructive: do not dig into engineering areas until you have studied the simplest causes.

In the young inexperienced specialist's fancy, even an insignificant equipment malfunction is at times blown up many times over its complexity. He begins to rush about looking for the cause. And, this unsystematic search frequently turns out to be empty effort.

How does an experienced technician behave? Before beginning to look for the cause of the malfunction, he calmly analyzes all the circumstances which led up to it and he soberly evaluates the probability of a particular situation. Then, there is a goal-directed search which, as a rule, wastes the minimum amount of time.

Experience, they say, comes with time. It is just a problem of how quickly you acquire it. This is something to think about. I do not recall an incident where any of my co-workers were indifferent to my concerns. For example, take Tech Svc Capt Kanashevich. More frequently than the others, he found the opportunity to see how I was doing in getting the aircraft ready to fly. After finding out what problems I had, he carefully explained why this was happening and what should actually be done. But, did we, the junior specialists, willingly ask the senior officers for advice? No. At times, false pride kept us from asking for assistance.

The road to experience would probably be a great deal shorter if more attention was devoted to military school cadets during their probationary service in line units. In my opinion, it would be beneficial for the future aircraft technician to gain firstline practical experience as a mechanic during his freshman and sophomore years. As the saying goes, he would learn the business from a to z. During his junior year, it would be beneficial for him to improve himself in his primary specialty.

The first lessons.... They were difficult but not in vain. I still follow the conclusions I drew from them now.

Flight Safety Violations Noted

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 80 p 2

[Article by Col A. Yarchuk, USSR Military pilot emiritus:
"Flight Safety: Grandstanding is no Substitute for Training"]

[Text] Pilot 1st class Capt A. Gritsenko had to work on a mission in the flight training area. The evening before, the officer received a detailed briefing from experienced training specialists and he worked on the simulator. But, in the training area, he disregarded his instructions and began to work on more advanced maneuvers thereby violating the sequence established by the mission. While carrying out one of the maneuvers, a hazardous situation developed; a laconic note was made on it in the flying safety hazard log: "Exceeded aircraft operational limitations."

How should the pilot's behavior be categorized? It belongs in the category of grandstanding. Unfortunately, this incident is not the exception. Certain other high-class pilots also commit the same kind of flying safety hazards. But, they should be setting the example in complying with flying safety procedures. What is the problem? A thorough analysis has shown that the cause is usually a vain desire on the part of certain experienced airmen to show off their expertise to their co-workers: look, they say, this is how you should fly!

How else, for example, can pilot 1st class Capt D. Plakhtiy's behavior be explained than as wreckless barnstorming? At the range, he pulled his aircraft out of a dive at such a low altitude that it was almost damaged by fragments from the bomb he had dropped. And, Lt A. Piven' began to show off his "expertise" to his wingman while in formation. This led to a dangerous convergence between the aircraft.

Why are cases of grandstanding still encountered in some units? Because, the effectiveness of the campaign against these incidents is not high enough in some places. In other words, "the grandstanding sickness" develops because strict demands are not made on some of the pilots who are not disciplined enough and because poor preventive measures are taken against violations of flying procedures. Let's return to the facts. Once, Maj B. Priurov exceeded the prescribed taxiing speed for his aircraft. What was the reaction? He was gently taken to task. Later, during his landing descent, he intentionally deviated from the glide path and it was only by happenstance that things turned out okay. Even this did not evoke any serious concern. The third time, Priurov flagrantly violated flight rules.... If he had been given an honest evaluation in the first case, I am sure the pilot would not have committed the follow-on violations.

Flying is difficult work and it is not always possible to guard against some mistakes. But, the problem is not so much that they still occur at times as it is that individual commanders close their eyes to them, considering them to be insignificant, and they do not honestly evaluate "minor" infractions. Furthermore, some people are of the opinion that experienced airmen supposedly do not have to observe flight rules as precisely as the junior pilots and that the experienced pilots' grandstanding is due to their in-depth knowledge and confident control of the equipment. In the squadron commanded by LtCol V. Solov'yev, the mistakes made by

pilots 1st class were not recorded in the flying safety hazard log for a six-month period. There was no analysis of the causes of them. Although deviations from flight rules became more frequent in the squadron, neither the commander nor the party organization increased their standards at that time. Even when the pilots made five mistakes during a single day while landing, there was no critique of these mistakes with their personnel. The commander simply limited himself to the general observation: "violations of flying procedures." But, the airmen did not get to hear what each violation consisted of specifically and which of the pilot's actions were incorrect.

There are also officers from the command element among those committing flying safety hazards. It is absolutely intolerable when they commit violations. The commander's authority is undermined and the training principle "do as I do" is depreciated. For example, what can LtCol Krasnov teach a junior pilot when he makes a hazardous descent in his aircraft trying "to shine with his expertise" during a joint mission? After all, he undoubtedly knows that precise observance of the requirements regulating flying is mandatory for everybody, without exception.

As a rule, a top-notch pilot is an experienced airman who is able to carry out the most difficult assignment. But, even his experience can let him down if he does not reinforce it with systematic lessons. If you analyze the causes of flying safety hazards committed by pilots in the top classes, you will note that they frequently occur because the airmen have not made sufficient preparations for a specific mission. Satisfied that top-notch airmen know everything and are able to do everything, certain units have relaxed their supervision over their preparations and are devoting significantly less attention to them during lessons.

For example, flight leader Capt V. Barsukov did not believe it was necessary to work with SrLt N. Liskovoy on the simulator during the preflight preparations or to find out how sound his skills were. He believed that the top-notch pilot had mastered everything once and for all. But, what happened then? While wrapping up his flight, Liskovoy "jauntily" touched down his aircraft at a high speed but was not able to keep it on the runway. As it turned out, he had lost certain flying skills.

It is not an idle saying that grandstanding is no substitute for training. In other words, it is only when a pilot has in-depth knowledge and solid skills in his job that he is able

to make full use of his aircraft's performance characteristics without exceeding the limitations set by the manuals and orders. When these conditions are not met, grandstanding is the equivalent of boasting, which can lead to irreparable harm in flying.

I once had an opportunity to talk to a pilot who had disregarded certain flying restrictions shortly before our conversation. He was an experienced officer. He understood that he had acted willfully. But, what of it? He tried to justify himself with the desire "to fly like Chkalov." But, he was basically wrong. V. P. Chkalov's outstanding talent for flying, his heroism and courage were combined with a sober estimate and an ability to quickly analyze the situation in any environment and make the correct decision. It was Valeriy Pavlovich who said: "A truly brave man will never take a risk senselessly, purposelessly or needlessly." So, citing Chkalov was not at all justified in this case.

Each violation of flying principles must be the subject of a serious discussion within the military group. It is very important that the commander and party activists take an irreconcilable attitude toward grandstanding and obstruct it in a timely manner. Naturally, it is not proper when junior pilots are severely lectured for similar violations while experienced pilots are only gently taken to task. This is an incorrect approach. To the contrary, the demands on 1st class pilots must be higher. Flying principles must be implemented by everybody, without exception, regardless of their flying time, official position or past services. It is only in an environment of high standards that there is no room for grandstanding.

This was the kind of environment established in the squadron commanded by Maj A. Gladkikh. They thoroughly analyzed each error in flying procedures and each violation of flight rules regardless of who committed them. Not a single squadron airman will take off until every detail of his previous flight has been critiqued. The data from the flight recorder is projected on a special screen and the airmen can see how they performed all the elements of the flight. Moreover, the actions of the squadron commander himself are also scrupulously analyzed.

The campaign for strict compliance with safety procedures has become an integral part of competition here. When evaluating the flying day's results, the commanders inevitably consider how precisely a particular pilot observed the requirements of directives and manuals. There have been cases where flight evaluations for specialists 1st class have been reduced because

of the liberties they have taken. This is the kind of performance obtained from high standards: for the third year in a row now, the squadron has functioned without any flagrant flying safety hazards.

Military daring and the ability to quickly get one's bearings in any environment, supported by stringent daily preparations, and intelligent initiative within the framework of strict compliance with flying principles--this is what guarantees the success of every airman.

Fighter-Interceptor Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Maj A. Berezin, pilot 1st class, Baltic Military District: "An Attack in the Clouds: Report from a Fighter Interceptor"]

[Text] It's a flying day. The supersonic interceptors are taking off. Our crew was assigned a mission of low-altitude air-to-air combat in the clouds. Capt Nikolay Velichko, the weapons systems operator, and I recheck our actions in the air and safety procedures. Nikolay Velichko is a graduate of the Stavropol' Higher Air Force School for Air Defense Pilots and Navigators. He and I have completed his transition program into a new aircraft. At first, he did not have enough experience or skill. But, the young officer was persistent and he was able to overcome his difficulties. Of course, his senior comrades helped him. Now, Velichko is a pilot 2nd class.

We are approaching our aircraft. A pentagon is painted on the side of it. It testifies that the fighting machine is in outstanding technical condition. It is a pleasure to fly in such an aircraft. Tech Svc Lt V. Gorev maintains it. He is a communist and a member of the squadron's Komsomol bureau. He is a zealous worker. And we, the pilots, rate his work highly.

While climbing into the cockpit, I saw the training missiles shining under the interceptor's beveled surfaces. The Soviet people have given us powerful, formidable weapons and outstanding equipment.

Today's flight is also a test of our operational readiness. At the prescribed time, I taxied out to the take-off runway. Scorching the concrete with flame, the interceptor separates from the ground and climbs into the clouds. I am flying the

aircraft on instruments. Target data arrives from the command post. I recognize him by his voice: Maj G. Tsagareyshvili will control us. He is an experienced specialist who knows his business. We head for the area of our air-to-air combat. Although it is a training fight, it will test our level of training and our preparedness to win over a real enemy.

"The AI radar parameters are okay," Capt Velichko reports over the intercom. Then, we received a command to turn. The target is somewhere straight ahead. I check the instrument readings. Course, altitude and speed are as commanded.

"To the right ten, I see it on the right," I hear the weapons systems operator's voice. The GCI controller confirms the target data. Now, it is a matter of seconds. Capt Velichko superimposes the strobes on the "enemy" aircraft blip and "locks on." But, the blip moves aside. The target is maneuvering. "Commander, to the left ten!" the report rings out over the radio. I put the aircraft in a high-G turn. I accelerate. The closure rate with the "enemy" increases sharply. The blip slips aside again. But, the attack can now be considered inevitable. The signal lights permitting missile "launch" are lit up on the radar frame. Mission accomplished.

While "homing" on our airfield, I climb above the clouds. How beautiful it is here! A bright sun. A light blue expanse. The snowy white foam of the clouds below the wing. Our crew is not alone in the endless sky. Callsigns and brief reports from aircraft ring out over the airwaves. The radio traffic is between Maj Vladimir Zakhrebetkov and Capt Vladimir Alabushev. Both are top-notch pilots. Their valiant military work has been recognized by Orders for Service to the Homeland in the USSR Armed Forces, 3rd degree. Such airmen are able to carry out the most difficult missions.

We receive a command to make our landing approach from the "checkpoint." Capt Velichko checks our course to the estimated point. Now our flight is being controlled by the shift landing control officer, Capt S. Glazkov, a top-notch specialist. Even after we have landed at our airfield and while we are taxiing to the hardstand, I hear the clear-cut reports of our young engineer-pilots who are taking off. Among them are SrLt Aleksandr Abramyan, commander of an outstanding flight, and SrLts Rishat Ravilov and Aleksandr Kharchenko. With a great deal of enthusiasm, they are steadily

improving their combat expertise. In their second year of service in the regiment, they became pilots 2nd class. Now they are carrying out missions based on the syllabus for 1st-class specialists.

At the airfield, Capt Velichko and I analyze our actions in the air. Specialists from the radar equipment team approached the aircraft. They asked if we had any comments about the AI radar's operation. No, everything's okay. Our crew will have another sortie. It will be a flight in the stratosphere. It will also have its own special features. We must consider them now during our preparations for the next mission.

The winter training days within the regiment are filled with a high degree of patriotic enthusiasm. Having actively joined the socialist competition for a welcome worthy of the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and the 35th anniversary of Victory Day, our airmen are honorably striving to carry out their pledges and to achieve higher marks in training and service and in strengthening combat readiness.

Gagarin Air Academy Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 80 p 1

[Article: "At the Yu. A. Gagarin Air Force Academy"]

[Text] The Red Banner Order of Kutuzov Gagarin Air Force Academy--one of the Soviet Armed Forces major training and scientific centers--is accomplishing important missions in training and educating highly skilled air force officers. During its 40 years of existence, the academy has prepared thousands of officers with a higher military education, 28 doctors of science and over 660 candidates of science. There is probably not a unit within our Air Force where academy graduates are not serving.

Like all the men of the Soviet Armed Forces, the academy's collective is getting ready for a worthy welcome for the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and the 35th anniversary of the Soviet People's Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The efforts of the command element, the political section, party organizations and the teaching staff are directed at guaranteeing an implicit unification of the training and educational processes and at molding a scientific outlook, superior morale and fighting traits, command skills and social action in students.

The academy has established all the conditions and resources necessary for productive training--it has valuable training facilities which meet modern requirements and it has an experienced teaching staff. The training process makes wide-spread use of frontline experience. There are 242 veterans of the Great Patriotic War working here; of them, 13 are Heroes of the Soviet Union.

Academy personnel are rightfully proud of the fact that a large number of astronauts have studied within its walls.

9001

CSO: 1801

MEDALS, DECORATIONS: WEAR REGULATIONS REVISED

Ukase Passed by Presidium

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Mar 80 p 1

["Ukase Passed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the Establishment of Regulations for the Wearing of Orders and Medals of the USSR, Order and Medal Ribbons on Bars and Other Insignia"]

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet hereby decrees:

1. That regulations be established for the wearing of orders and medals of the USSR, order and medal ribbons on bars and other insignia.

2. That the following are no longer in effect:

1) Article 2 of the Ukase passed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 19 June 1943 "On the Establishment of Models and a Definition of Ribbons for Orders and Medals of the USSR and Regulations for the Wearing of Orders, Medals, Order Ribbons and Insignia" and the Regulations for the Wearing of Orders, Medals, Order Ribbons and Decorations established by this Ukase (VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA SSSR, No 23, 1943);

2) The Ukase passed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 26 June 1943 "On Establishing the Procedure for the Wearing of Foreign Orders and Medals and Foreign Order Ribbons" ("Sbornik zakonov SSSR i Ukazov Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR" [Collection of Laws of the USSR and Ukases of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet], 1975 edition, volume 2, p 605);

3) Article 2 of the Ukase passed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 9 March 1973 "On Modifying and Supplementing Certain Legislative Enactments of the USSR as a Result of Passage of the Law of the USSR

'On the Status of Deputies to the Soviet of Workers' Deputies in the USSR'" (VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA SSSR, No 11, 1973, p 156).

Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet
L. Brezhnev

Secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet
M. Georgadze

Moscow, The Kremlin
28 March 1980

Definition of Regulations

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Mar 80 pp 1, 2

[Definition of regulations by M. Georgadze, secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet: "Regulations for the Wearing of Orders and Medals of the USSR, Order and Medal Ribbons on Bars and Other Insignia"]

[Text] In accordance with the General Statute on Orders, Medals and Honorary Titles of the USSR, citizens presented with state awards of the USSR ordinarily wear orders, medals and badges bearing honorary titles of the USSR during sessions of the soviets of people's deputies, congresses and conferences of public organizations, general state celebrations and formal meetings. On other occasions individuals so decorated may wear only orders and medals of the USSR or their ribbons on bars.

The following regulations are followed for wearing state decorations of the USSR, order and medal ribbons on bars, and other insignia:

1. Special decorations--the "Gold Star" medal of the Hero of the Soviet Union and the gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal of the Hero of Socialist Labor are worn on the left hand side of the chest above orders and medals.

When wearing two or more special decorations, they are attached to clothing in a single row, with a space of 10 millimeters between the lateral tips of the stars, in the following order: The "Gold Star" medal and then the the gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal. Special decorations of the same kind are arranged in the chronological order in which they were awarded.

2. The Order of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Labor Red Banner, the Order of Friendship of Peoples, the "Emblem of Honor" order, the Order of Glory First Degree, the Order of Glory Second Degree, the Order of Glory Third Degree, the Order of Labor Glory First Degree, the Order of Labor Glory Second Degree and the Order of Labor Glory Third Degree are worn on the left hand side of the chest.

When wearing two or more of the above orders, their five-pointed holders are joined together in a row on a single bar. The orders are arranged in a row from right to left, in the order in which they are listed in this paragraph of the Regulations. Orders of the same kind are arranged in a row in the chronological order in which they were conferred. Orders which will not fit on the same row are placed in a second or additional rows located below the first row and are also arranged from right to left in the order indicated.

The "Victory" Order, the highest military order, is worn on the left hand side of the chest, 12 to 14 centimeters above the belt.

The "Mother-Heroine" Order is worn on the left hand side of the breast, above any other orders or medals which may be worn, and to the left of any special decorations--the "Gold Star" medal and the gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal.

The "Maternal Glory" Order, First, Second and Third Degrees, is worn on the left hand side of the breast and is arranged from right to left in descending order, above any other orders and medals which may be worn.

3. The Order of Suvorov First Degree, the Order of Ushakov First Degree, the Order of Kutuzov First Degree, the Order of Nakhimov First Degree, the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy First Degree, the Order of Suvorov Second Degree, the Order of Ushakov Second Degree, the Order of Kutuzov Second Degree, the Order of Nakhimov Second Degree, the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Second Degree, the Order of Suvorov Third Degree, the Order of Kutuzov Third Degree, the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Third Degree, the Order of Aleksandr Nevskiy, the Order of the Patriotic War First Degree, the Order of the Patriotic War Second Degree, the Order of the Red Star, the Order "For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" First Degree, the Order "For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" Second Degree and the Order "For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" Third Degree are worn on the right hand side of the chest.

When two or more of the above orders are worn, they are arranged in a row from left to right, with a space of 5 millimeters between lateral tips of the stars, in the order in which these orders are listed in this paragraph of the Regulations. Orders of the same kind or of the same degree are arranged in a row in the chronological order in which they were conferred. Orders which will not fit on a single row are carried over to a second or additional rows located below the first and are arranged from left to right in the order indicated.

4. All medals of the USSR, except for the medal "For Outstanding Military Service" First and Second Degrees, are worn on the left hand side of the chest following the orders.

When two or more medals are worn on the left hand side of the chest, and when medals and orders are worn together, their five-pointed holders are joined together in a row on a single bar. Medals are arranged after orders in a row from right to left in the following order: the medal "For Bravery," the Ushakov medal, the medal "For Combat Merits," the Nakhimov medal, the medal "For Labor Valor," the medal "For Outstanding Labor," the medal "To a Partisan of the Patriotic War" First Degree, the medal "To a Partisan of the Patriotic War" Second Degree, the medal "For Distinction in Guarding the State Border of the USSR," the medal "For Distinguished Service in Guarding Public Order," the medal "For Bravery in a Fire," the medal "For Rescuing the Drowning," the medal "For the Defense of Leningrad," the medal "For the Defense of Moscow," the medal "For the Defense of Odessa," the medal "For the Defense of Sevastopol'," the medal "For the Defense of Stalingrad," the medal "For the Defense of Kiev," the medal "For the Defense of the Caucasus," the medal "For the Defense of the Soviet Polar Region," the medal "For the Victory Over Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the anniversary medal "20th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the anniversary medal "The 30th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the medal "For the Victory Over Japan," the medal "For the Capture of Budapest," the medal "For the Capture of Konigsberg," the medal "For the Capture of Vienna," the medal "For the Capture of Berlin," the medal "For the Liberation of Belgrade," the medal "For the Liberation of Warsaw," the medal "For the Liberation of Prague," the medal "For Valorous Labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the medal "Labor Veteran," the medal "Veteran of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the medal "For Strengthening the Combat Fraternity," the medal "For Rebuilding Ferrous Metallurgy Enterprises in the South," the medal "For Repairing the Donbass Coalmines," the medal "For Developing the Virgin Lands," the medal "For the Building of the Baykal-Amur Trunk Line," the medal "For Transforming the Non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR," the medal "For the Development of Mineral Deposits and the Oil-and-Gas Complex of Western Siberia," the anniversary medal "The 20th Anniversary of the RKKA [Workers' and Peasants' Red Army]," the anniversary medal "30th Anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy," the anniversary medal "40th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the anniversary medal "50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the anniversary medal "60th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the anniversary medal "50th Anniversary of the Soviet Militia," the medal "In Memory of Moscow's 800th Anniversary" and the medal "In Honor of Leningrad's 250th Anniversary."

The anniversary medal "For Valorous Labor (For Military Valor), In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin," when worn with other medals and orders arranged on a common bar, is located to the left and above the common bar but below the "Gold Star" medal and the gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal, and when these medals are not present, in their place.

The medal "Maternity Medal" First and Second Degrees, when orders and other medals are worn, are placed on the same row with or below them.

The medal "For Outstanding Military Service" First and Second Degrees, is worn on the right hand side of the chest, arranged from left to right in descending order by degrees. The medal is worn beneath any orders.

5. An order of the USSR awarded to an enterprise, association, institution, organization, Union or autonomous republic, kray, oblast, autonomous oblast, autonomous okrug, rayon, city or other community is attached to the front side of the banner in the top corner, 15 centimeters from the edge of the banner and 10 centimeters from the staff. Two or more orders are arranged from the bottom down along the staff, 5 to 10 centimeters apart in their established sequence. Order ribbons are attached to the staff above the banner itself.

The procedure for displaying and storing orders on the fighting colors of a decorated military unit is defined in the Internal Service Regulations of the Armed Forces of the USSR.

6. When the orders are not worn order ribbons on bars are worn on the left hand side of the chest, from right to left in the following sequence: The Order of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of Suvorov First Degree, the Order of Ushakov First Degree, the Order of Kutuzov First Degree, the Order of Nakhimov First Degree, the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy First Degree, the Order of Suvorov Second Degree, the Order of Ushakov Second Degree, the Order of Kutuzov Second Degree, the Order of Nakhimov Second Degree, the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Second Degree, the Order of Suvorov Third Degree, the Order of Kutuzov Third Degree, the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Third Degree, the Order of Aleksandr Nevskiy, the Order of the Patriotic War First Degree, the Order of the Patriotic War Second Degree, the Order of the Labor Red Banner, the Order of Friendship of Peoples, the Order of the Red Star, the order "For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" First Degree, the order "For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" Second Degree, the order "For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" Third Degree, the order "Badge of Honor," the Order of Glory First Degree, the Order of Glory Second Degree, the Order of Glory Third Degree, the Order of Labor Glory First Degree, the Order of Labor Glory Second Degree, and the Order of Labor Glory Third Degree.

The ribbon of the "Victory" order is worn separately, 1 centimeter above the bars with the order and medal ribbons.

The order "Mother-Heroine" and the order "Maternal Glory" First, Second and Third Degrees do not have ribbons on bars.

7. When worn without the medals, medal ribbons on bars are worn on the left hand side of the chest, from right to left, following the order ribbons and in the following sequence: the medal "For Bravery," the Ushakov Medal, the medal "For Combat Merits," the Nakhimov Medal, the medal "For Labor Valor," the medal "For Distinguished Labor," the anniversary medal "For Valorous Labor (For Military Valor), In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin," the medal "To a Partisan of the Patriotic War" First Degree, the medal "To a Partisan of the Patriotic War" Second Degree, the medal "For Distinction in Guarding the State Border of the USSR," the medal "For Distinguished Military Service" First Degree, the medal "For Distinguished Military Service" Second Degree, the medal "For Excellent Service in Guarding the Public Order," the medal "For Bravery in a Fire," the medal "For Rescuing the Drowning," the medal "For the Defense of Leningrad," the medal "For the Defense of Moscow," the medal "For the Defense of Odessa," the medal "For the Defense of Sevastopol'," the medal "For the Defense of Stalingrad," the medal "For the Defense of Kiev," the medal "For the Defense of the Caucasus," the medal "For the Defense of the Soviet Polar Region," the medal "For the Victory Over Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the anniversary medal "20th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the anniversary medal "30th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the medal "For the Victory Over Japan," the medal "For the Capture of Budapest," the medal "For the Capture of Königsberg," the medal "For the Capture of Vienna," the medal "For the Capture of Berlin," the medal "For the Liberation of Belgrade," the medal "For the Liberation of Warsaw," the medal "For the Liberation of Prague," the medal "For Valorous Labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the medal "Labor Veteran," the medal "Veteran of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the medal "For Strengthening the Combat Fraternity," the medal "For Rebuilding Ferrous Metallurgy Enterprises in the South," the medal "For Repairing the Donbass Coalmines," the medal "For the Development of the Virgin Lands," the medal "For Building the Baykal-Amur Trunk Line," the medal "For Transforming the Non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR," the medal "For Developing Mineral Deposits and the Oil-And-Gas Complex in Western Siberia," the anniversary medal "20th Anniversary of the RKKA," the anniversary medal "30th Anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy," the anniversary medal "40th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the anniversary medal "50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the anniversary medal "60th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR," the anniversary medal "50th Anniversary of the Soviet Militia," the medal "In Honor of Moscow's 800th Anniversary" and the medal "In Honor of Leningrad's 250th Anniversary."

The ribbons for the "Gold Star" medal and the gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal are not worn separately from the medals. The medal "Maternity Medal" First and Second Degrees do not have ribbons on a bar.

8. When two or more order and medal ribbons are worn, the ribbons are attached side by side on a common bar, from right to left in the order

specified in paragraphs 6 and 7 of these Regulations. Ribbons which will not fit on a single bar are placed on a second, third or additional bars attached to the clothing below the first bar.

9. The gold medal of the holder of the International Lenin Prize "For Strengthening Peace Among People," the badge of honor of the holder of Lenin and State Prizes of the USSR and the chest insignia for an honorary title of the USSR are worn on the right hand side of the chest above any orders.

Decorations for wounds are arranged on the right hand side of the chest above any orders.

10. The departmental medals "For Irreproachable Service" First, Second and Third Degrees, established by the USSR Ministry of Defense, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security Committee of the USSR, are worn on the left hand side of the chest to the left of any orders or medals of the USSR in the descending order of the degrees.

The ribbons of the departmental medals "For Irreproachable Service" First, Second and Third Degrees are arranged on bars following the ribbons of orders and medals of the USSR.

11. The chest insignia of deputies of the soviets of people's deputies are worn on the left hand side of the chest.

All other chest insignia and decorations are worn on the right hand side of the chest, below orders and medals.

12. Orders and medals of foreign states are worn below orders and medals of the USSR. Such orders and medals attached to ribbons are arranged on the left hand side of the chest, while those without ribbons are worn on the right hand side of the decorated individual's chest.

The ribbons of foreign orders and medals are worn on separate bars, below the bars for the ribbons of orders and medals of the USSR.

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ARMED FORCES: TV FILM SERIES DESCRIBED

Moscow GOVORIT I POKAZYVAYET MOSKVA in Russian No 19, 5-11 May 80 pp 3, 16

[Article by V. Yanchevskiy: "The Invincible and Legendary--The Premiere of a Television Documentary Film Series"]

[Text] The film series on the valorous Soviet Armed Forces continues. The series was created for the 35th anniversary of the Victory by the producers of television and motion picture documentaries of the creative artists' association "Ekran."

Our correspondent met with the military consultants for the films, which will be shown during the coming week, and asked them to introduce the films to the television viewers.

Film Two--"Vakhta v okeane" [Sea Watch]--Monday, 5 May, First Program, 2010 Hours; "Vostok," 1740 Hours

This film is discussed by the chief consultant, Rear Admiral Yuriy Anatol'yevich Il'chenko. Yu. A. Il'chenko entered the navy in 1941. While still a cadet at a naval school, he took part in the war against imperialist Japan. He served as navigator on the legendary Guards boat Shch-303. He has served as commander of a submarine and of submarine squadrons. He has served in all four of our home and's fleets. Rear Admiral Il'chenko is presently deputy chief of the nation's Main Naval Staff.

Our film is about the modern Navy, about its famous traditions and about the equally famous successors and continuers of these traditions. The frames of the military film chronicle included in this film remind the viewers over and over of the awesome and destructive force our surface and submarine fleet presented to the enemy during the Great Patriotic War and how the Hitlerite scum were defeated by the naval landing troops and naval

infantry, pilots and the sailors on the surface ships and submarines. The names of many heroes of the Great Patriotic War are mentioned in the film.

You will see how the navy reveres the memory of the heroes and how the commanders and political workers use them as an example in indoctrinating today's sailors. Our Navy has become an ocean-going fleet since the war. It is reliably guarding our homeland's marine borders and standing watch on the enormous expanses of the World Ocean. When I was a boy I dreamed of becoming a submariner. What a difference, however, between the diesel-powered boats on which I began my naval career and the atomic-powered submarines on which today's submariners sail!

Our Navy has become so powerful it is absolutely unrecognizable. Naturally, it would be impossible to show everything in a brief film. I think that what you do see, however, will make a great impression. Aircraft, which take off vertically from a ship's deck and reach supersonic speeds.... Tanks which float on the sea.... Ships which leave the water and go on shore to perform combat training tasks in cooperation with other branches of troops.

Separate ships or naval squadrons can now perform combat tasks either independently or in cooperation with other services of the armed forces. This is depicted well in the film, especially in the episodes which tell about combat exercises on the cruiser "Kiyev."

I feel that the authors of the film have succeeded in portraying the everyday military work of the sailor, his good fighting spirit, his everyday life and his spiritual world. Naval duty has always been and remains a manly and rigorous type of service. The sea and the ship unite the men to an extraordinary degree. When danger threatens, after all, everyone at sea is equal in the face of that danger. This is why, in addition to the irreproachable performance of one's every duty, courage, calmness, mutual assistance and the traditional naval friendship are so highly important in the navy. And I feel that the film makes this clear.

Continuous watch is performed by sailors of the Soviet Nation on the expanses of the ocean, in the depths of the sea and in the air above the ocean. They are always on guard!

Film Three--"Porodnitsy s nebom" [Akin to the Sky]--Monday, 6 May, First Program, 2010 Hours; "Vostok," 1740 Hours

Hero of the Soviet Union and honored military pilot of the USSR, Lieutenant General of Aviation Petr Vasil'yevich Bazanov, chief consultant for this film and a fighter-pilot with 38 fascist aircraft destroyed in the Great Patriotic War to his credit, told us the following:

This is a film about military pilots, simple and ordinary people who are very much like everyone of us and yet extraordinary. What makes them extraordinary? Is it, perhaps, their particular mentality, certain inborn qualities or traits, or the uniform with its light blue lapels? No, their special occupation makes them that way. The film shows what gives us the right to call an individual who has mastered the skills of a military pilot "extraordinary," what distinguishes him from hundreds and thousands of representatives of other honored and respected, ground occupations.

A pilot is an individual with an exceptionally complicated and stressful job, an individual whose work, especially that performed on single-seat combat aircraft, has no parallel on the ground. He is an individual of extremely great moral fortitude, dedication and courage. The pilot's romantic winged occupation is combined with great moral beauty and makes special demands of his personal qualities.

He must know a great deal and be able to do many things in order to fly, to be a real fighter, the true master of the equipment and of the situation in any, even the most complicated circumstances. Flying is organically connected with extensive, persistent daily work, work which sometimes goes unnoticed. Flight work has always been and always will be a job for the most courageous individuals, people dedicated to the last breath to their duty.

The film "Akin to the Sky" shows various generations of military pilots, their jobs, their actions and their thinking which gives the viewer a deeper understanding of the diversity and complexity of the job of protecting the homeland as a pilot.

The viewers will meet representatives of the various air arms: fighter pilots, fighter-bomber pilots, members of stunt-flying teams, long-range aviation and military transport pilots, and helicopter pilots from the Red Banner Regiment imeni Vladimir Il'ich Lenin. They will see unique frames from the chronicle of the Great Patriotic War and will certainly be affected by the remarkable career of frontline pilot Vladimir Yermolayevich Petrov. They will hear exciting stories by famous Soviet pilots about military wisdom and combat experience, and by pilots who are successfully mastering the third generation of modern aviation systems and are preserving and adding to the combat traditions of their older comrades-in-arms. These are individuals of inexhaustible energy and unheard-of diligence, capable of seeing any job they begin through to the end.

The film convincingly demonstrates the fact that the ideological maturity and the communist consciousness of Soviet airmen are constantly demonstrated in their routine, everyday work....

Soviet military pilots are prepared to perform the assigned mission in any situation and under any circumstances, with great detachment and demonstrating unbending will, iron stamina, valor and daring.

It is a world of unrest and alarms. And the military pilots who go off into the sky to perform their job are simple people who are made extraordinary by their special occupation. They enter the skies like fighting men, in order always to be on guard, keep their powder dry, to see that our homeland's defenses are strong and reliable, because the main significance of their lives and their occupations is nothing other than that.

Film Four--"Na strazhe neba rodiny" [Guarding the Homeland's Skies]--
Wednesday, 7 May, First Program, 2010 Hours; "Vostok," 1740 Hours

This film is explained to us by the military consultant, Major General Semen Potatovich Panzhinskiy. During the Great Patriotic War, S. P. Panzhinskiy served first as a private and then a political worker. Following the war he served as a deputy regimental commander for political affairs and as deputy chief of a unit (soyedineniye) political section. He is presently deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the National Air Defense Forces.

The National Air Defense Forces are among the forces always in a state of combat readiness. It is with good reason that the combat watch of our fighters, like that of the frontier troops, always begins with the formal command: "I hereby order! Guard the air borders of our homeland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics! Take over." The all-weather interceptors have roared into the skies, the duty teams have settled down at the control panels of the ground-to-air missile systems, and the operators are at their stations. Outfitted with the most modern of combat equipment--ground-to-air missiles, aircraft and radio equipment--the air defense fighters are capable of beginning immediately to perform the responsible combat tasks involved in protecting people, cities and industrial centers, as well as groupings of the Armed Forces, against enemy air attack weapons.

The film "Guarding the Homeland's Skies" is about the birth and development of the National Air Defense Forces, about what they are like today, about the remarkable people who have served and are presently serving in our units and subunits.

In October 1917, at V. I. Lenin's personal orders, workers at the Putilov Plant rapidly created a steel antiaircraft battalion. This was our nation's first air defense subunit. The film takes the viewer over that battalion's combat path. The producers of the film remind us that the battalion, subsequently made into a regiment, was the first in the nation to be awarded the Honor Banner of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee. The title "Putilov-Kirov" was subsequently conferred upon it.

The Air Defense fighters also battled the enemy courageously during the Great Patriotic War. They destroyed more than 7300 enemy aircraft during the war. The film includes priceless scenes: Junior Lieutenant of Air Defense Forces Viktor Talalikhin tells how he rammed and destroyed a fascist bomber one night.

And then there are scenes filmed today. A polar garrison, with soldiers starting out over a snowy ridge to stand watch.... A scorching desert, where radar operators carefully monitor the skies against a backdrop of isolated sand dunes.... One of the air defense garrisons in the interior of Russia. Interceptors on standby. Their life seems calm and regular. It only seems this way, however. On the morning of 1 May, 20 years ago, the fighting men of a missile subunit were also standing watch there. A moving dot suddenly appeared on the radar screens. Ignoring the signals transmitted to it, the foreign aircraft shifted its course and headed into the nation's interior. At this point the missile crew was given the command:

"Launch...."

A white flash appeared briefly on the radar screen and then dissipated. The duty officer made the following entry in the log: "Aircraft shot down with the first missile at 1053 hours Sverdlovsk time." And the airborne spy, Powers, did not know that for a long time prior to that fatal moment he had been expected, detected and vigilantly tracked by a Soviet lieutenant with the symbolic name Mogilin [Graves?]. Byacheslav Borisovich Mogilin is now a lieutenant colonel in the National Air Defense Forces. You will hear him speak in the film.

The present generation of fighting men in the National Air Defense Forces are carefully preserving and adding to the glorious combat traditions. They religiously carry out Lenin's bidding: "Study the military job seriously."

Film Five--"Chasovyye zemli" [Sentinels of the Land]--Thursday, 8 May, First Program, 2010 Hours; "Vostok," 1740 Hours

The concluding film of this series is devoted to the Strategic Rocket Forces. It is presented to the television viewers by the chief military consultant, Colonel General Mikhail Grigo'yevich Grigor'yev. M. G. Grigor'yev has served in the Armed Forces since 1936. He was one of those prominent in the creation of the first Soviet Rocket Units. During the Great Patriotic War he commanded the 7th Guards Mortar Svirsk, Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov and Aleksandr Nevskiy Brigade of Headquarters, Supreme High Commander. He fought with the brigade in the fighting near Leningrad, in Norway and Poland and in fascist Germany. After the war he occupied a number

of command posts in the Rocket Forces. Mikhail Grigor'yevich Grigor'yev is presently first deputy commander in chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces.

The Strategic Rocket Forces are the newest service of the Armed Forces. The film thoroughly covers their combat path and their prehistory, using scenes from the film chronicle and old photographs which have survived.

The year is 1933. The first liquid-fuel rockets have been fired by students of Tsibikovskiy and Tsander, led by S. P. Korolev. We move on to 17 June 1941. At a range near Moscow test battery launchings have been performed with rockets fired from the BM-13 launchers (known by the name "katyusha"). Literally a few hours before the war began the Soviet government made the decision to begin series-production of the launchers and the projectiles for them and to begin putting military rocket units together.

The first rocket launchers ("katyushas") inflicted devastating blows upon the enemy in the very beginning of the war. Captain I. A. Flerov, commander of the Soviet Army's first rocket artillery battery, and his fighting comrades have been given fitting coverage in the film. And once again, there are frames showing the important stages in the creation of our nation's Rocket Forces.

It is now October 1947. The first ballistic rocket, the R-1 developed at the special design office headed by S. P. Korolev, was launched two years after the war ended. He coordinated the work of many different design offices to perform a task which was of vital importance to our nation at that time. Remember that the imperialists had opened the "cold war" gates at that very time and were blackmailing us with the atomic bomb. For the sake of safeguarding the recently won peace and of carrying out the party's plans for socialist development we had to make haste with the development of a powerful defensive weapon--strategic missiles. And such a weapon was developed. You will see how, on the 40th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, participants in the ceremonies in Moscow greeted the appearance of strategic missiles in Red Square. The creation of a new service of the Armed Forces, the Strategic Rocket Forces, was announced at a January 1960 session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The designation of the Rocket Forces as a separate service of the Armed Forces meant that some extremely difficult problems had to be rapidly resolved. These included working out the principles for the combat employment of these forces and for controlling them, selecting the sites for the missile complexes and building the launching positions, creating a system of training facilities for the rocket troops, and so forth.

The Rocket Troops are among those maintained in a constant state of combat readiness. The rocket troops have mastered to perfection the equipment entrusted to them. Around 70 percent of them have engineer training. They are constantly on stand-by duty. This is their main job, one of special

state importance. This constant high level of combat readiness is a forced but necessary condition for restraining the aggressive endeavors of imperialism and its accomplices.

Our homeland's shield of missiles is a reliable one. And this is due not only to the fact that we have the most modern and powerful missile weapons, but first and foremost, to the missilemen, always prepared to carry out a combat order for the homeland. The film acquaints the viewers with one of the missilemen, Captain Viktor Mamonov. It seems to me that what Captain A. Tikhomirov, who wrote the script for the film, said in our conversation best describes the modern missilemen.

"We understand what an awesome weapon we are handling. We also know very well why we are on constant stand-by with this weapon. It is to make certain that the flames of war never flare up."

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